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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

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☞ All communications designed for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

☞ Letters on business, Subscription, &c., address COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh.

The Weekly Commercial, a large sheet containing all the Current News, Miscellaneous, Literary and Scientific Intelligence, and a Valuable Reading for the Family.

TERMS OF THE WEEKLY: Per Year, (32 issues), $2 00; in Clubs of Twenty and over, $1 25, strictly pre-paid; one copy gratis to the getter up of the Club. The money must accompany the order from, or in behalf of, each subscriber.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XII. PITTSBURGH, THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 31, 1874. NO. 93.

FIRST EDITION.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 30, 1874.

RESPECT TO GERRIT SMITH'S MEMORY.

A large number of persons called to-day at the residence of General John Cochrane to view the remains of the late Gerrit Smith. A plaster cast of the face has been taken. The Union Association has presented a floral cross and tribute to the memory of the deceased. The remains left to-night, in charge of relatives, for Peterboro', for interment.

ARREST OF A CANADIAN BANK ROBBER.

Robert J. Dallas, the late cashier of Molson's bank, Toronto, who robbed the bank of forty-three $1,000 bank notes and fled, was arrested in Elizabeth yesterday, and $42,700 was found in his possession.

RESUMPTION OF ROBERTS & CO.

L. Roberts & Co., who suspended two months ago, have paid their creditors in full.

THE TILTON-BEECHER SUIT.

Mr. Wm. M. Evarts, senior counsel for Mr. Beecher, says he does not think the decision of Judges Neilson and Reynolds yesterday, on the bill of particulars, could be appealed from. In any event, Mr. Beecher did not intend to appeal, and the case would go on as it is. The trial was set down for Monday next, and so far as he knew, it would then proceed in the regular course, as stipulated. It was certainly his understanding that the trial would go on.

PACIFIC MAIL INVESTIGATION.

The Pacific Mail investigation was resumed to-day. John Roundy, accountant of the Pacific Mail Company, testified that he knew Irwin; identified the accounts in the ledger; they came to him marked A. B. S.; to the names of Harriott & Noyes was entered $600,000; checks were not issued under the immediate supervision of the Vice President, but under the superior direction of the President; was not present at the meeting of the Executive Committee when arrangements were made for disbursements for obtaining the subsidy; witness thought the entries in the stub check and cash books were false; in point of fact, the entry of $670,000 to Harriott & Noyes was only made for convenience; witness thought this was really fraud, and would be calculated to mislead any stockholder endeavoring to get at the standing of the company; the amount of checks issued to Irwin struck witness as being very large; Vice President Bellows told witness it was the intention or Stockwell to pay these moneys back; at the time witness had the impression these moneys should be charged to the person who gave them; witness to-person $650,000 entered to Harriott & Noyes, to the close of the account; witness knew nothing of the unexplained account sent from the San Francisco agency in 1872, the items being for sundry payments, Washington elections, &c.; Irwin never rendered any account to Stockwell with regard to these moneys. Witness identified an entry in the cash-book, in his own handwriting, of R. B. Irwin's Washington expenses, $25,000; so far as these entries to Harriott & Noyes were concerned, witness was confident they were ordinary business loans. Witness then read entries to Eldridge, Irwin, Harriott & Noyes, and other parties, in the cash-book.

Wm. R. Bunker, Secretary of the Brooklyn Trust Company, testified that he had held the position since August, 1875. He had the books of the Company prior to that date. On the pass-book there was an entry of the deposit of $275,000 by the Company with the Marine National bank. On May 30, 1872, the cash-book contained no item as large as that on that date, but showed the payment of three checks of $50,000 each to John G. Schumaker. It also showed an entry of $125,000 passed to the credit of the same person. The payments and credit amounted together to $275,000. The witness had no personal knowledge of Mr. Schumaker, but believed that he was a lawyer and a member of Congress, living in Brooklyn. The witness did not know whether he was a member of Congress at the time in question. Witness was instructed to make a transcript of the account of Schumaker with the Trust Company from May 30, 1872, inclusive, until the next settlement.

Mr. Dumont Clarke, the assistant cashier of the American Exchange bank, was recalled. As to the check of $100,000, referred to in his previous testimony, he then said that the check was brought to the bank on the 27th of May by A. H. Whiting, who wished to deposit $56,000 of the amount. The check was not returned for payment until the 3d of July following. It was made payable to the order of Eugene Kelly & Co.

Hugh J. Hastings said that a morning newspaper had invited the committee to call him as a witness and question him as to the disposition of $200,000 extended by the Pacific Mail Company at Albany. He had accordingly appeared without waiting for summons. Mr. Hastings was sworn and questioned by Mr. Niblack, who said he understood that some of the Pacific Mail money was expended at Albany. He testified that he knew nothing about any of the expenditures to obtain the subsidy; that while at Albany, two years ago, he was asked to assist in procuring a reduction of the capital stock of the Pacific Mail Company, but replied that he had enough to do to attend to his own business. He never disbursed any money for that company, and had nothing to do with its proceedings.

Rufus Hatch said he wished to introduce testimony to show that Irwin's intention in coming from Europe here, was to break up this company, and for this purpose he wished that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Charles P. Palmer be examined before the committee with reference to this matter. The other witnesses he would like summoned, were Messrs. Masterson, Kingsland, C. J. Arthur, Henry Clews, Mr. Baxter and Mr. Stockwell.

Mr. Roundy submitted his transcript to the committee. Mr. Hatch stated that he had given orders for the files of letters to be searched in the Pacific Mail Company's office, and would to-morrow produce every paper which passed between Irwin and Stockwell from the 1st of January to the end of June, 1872.

Adjourned.

THE RUSSIAN MISSION DECLINED.

Ex-Senator Morgan has declined the mission to Russia.

The Stock, Produce, Cotton and Gold Exchanges close Friday, but will be open Saturday.

It is reported that Mayor Vance has decided to remove Comptroller Green to-morrow.

SUDDEN DEATH OF GENERAL MORGAN L. SMITH.

A *post mortem* examination on the body of General Morgan L. Smith, who died suddenly in Jersey City, was made to-night, and his death found to have been caused by congestion of the lungs.

MASONIC RECEPTION OF THE KING.

A reception was given to Kalakaua to-night by the Freemasons of this city, who were present in large numbers.

BILLIARDS.

To-night, in a game of 600 points, French Garom, Vignaux made 600 and Joseph Dion 558; winner's average 12; Vignaux made the extraordinary run of 192.

SOME COLD WEATHER.

The Signal Office reports extremely cold weather to-night in various parts of the country. The following are specimens: Albany six degrees above zero; Boston ten above; Eastport nine below; Halifax one below; Kingston, Canada, eight below; Burlington, Vt., nine below; Montreal twelve below; Mount Washington thirty below; New York twenty-two above; Oswego one above; Quebec eighteen below. The wind is blowing 100 miles an hour at Mount Washington.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

The steamers the Queen and Wisconsin, from Liverpool, have arrived at New York.

The Fall River spinners and weavers have resolved to accept a reduction of wages under protest, and make preparation for a strike in the spring.

The Supreme Court of Georgia, in cases brought by certain bondholders against the Mechanics bank of Augusta and its stockholders, decides that the bondholders are entitled to recover.

Governor Beveridge, of Illinois, has ordered a special election in the First Congressional district, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Hon. John B. Rice. The election will be held January 25.

The Congressional Committee to investigate Louisiana affairs has arrived at New Orleans. Of the Alabama Committee, Messrs. Coburn and Buckner have arrived at Montgomery, and the rest are at Opelika.

At the provincial elections in Manitoba, yesterday, Hon. R. A. Davis, Premier of the Manitoba Cabinet, was re-elected to the Provincial Parliament for Winnepeg, by fifteen majority, over Captain Scott. A contest will ensue, on the ground of corrupt practices. There was no disturbance.

Mr. French, Chairman of the Massachusetts legislative Committee on Reservoirs, visited Haydenville yesterday to ascertain the cause of the late disaster there. His verdict was: "Faulty engineering, faulty material and faulty building, and that the dam was not wide enough, the stone not suitable and the grouting not good enough.

Bookkeepers and Business Men

The business of the year should have nothing as a book of

EDUCATIONAL.

Proceedings of the Washington County Teachers' Institute at Canonsburg.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

CANONSBURG, PA., December 30, 1874.

Institute convened at 2 P. M. Tuesday and, after singing the National Hymn, were addressed by Prof. Houck, of the School Department, on some of the elements of successful Institute, and some of the advantages to be derived from them.

Mr. Houck's enthusiasm is contagious, and as he set before the teachers what should be done and what should not be done in order to make a success, he grew truly eloquent. He thought too little was often left for the teachers themselves to do. Money was provided, large numbers of distinguished lecturers engaged, and it was then expected that the concern would "run itself." This should not be the case. Properly a teacher's institute was not only for the teachers but of the teachers. Lecturers and instructors from abroad are well enough, but the teachers should take more part in the work.

Song—"Baby, Bye."

Mrs. Sanford continued her talk on history. Teachers should inculcate a spirit of entire truthfulness. Teaching children to be honest is more difficult than teaching them arithmetic or grammar. Be very tender of children's feelings. Do not expose them for wrong doing when you can reach them without it. Children are often driven into deception by injudicious action of parents and teachers. Gain their confidence. Be watchful of their conduct; be watchful that they can not be false without their feeling that you know it. Be observant. Trust them just so soon as you have them educated to a point worthy of trust.

The contestants for the spelling prizes of the county banner and six dictionaries have been assembled at the hall of the public school building since eleven o'clock, A. M., to-day. The class consists of nineteen contestants, pupils from various towns at present, who were to spell five hundred words, under the supervision of a committee of five. Last year Superintendent Brashear provided a fine appropriate banner, which is annually to be contested for, to be won by that pupil missing fewest words, at each meeting of the Institute. This year minor prizes are also offered, consisting of copies of Webster's Unabridged.

Prof. French said a proper program should give each pupil information of what he should be expected to be engaged in each moment of the day, and a detailed outline of a programme suitable to a grammar school.

The discussion of the following question: What Legislation, if any, is Necessary to Secure the Efficiency of the Public Schools?" was opened by Prof. Hendry, of Hillsboro. He claimed that the present number of students is too few, and should be enlarged by the Legislature. Compulsory attendance would be productive of much good. He also advocated a system uniformity of text books. Extensive changes in which the claimants served in the Confederate army. It was proved, however, that the parties he'd been drafted or conscripted into the rebel army, or had been in the employ, and had deserted at the first opportunity. Some of them had afterward gone into the Union army. The appropriations for their claims have yet to be made by Congress.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 30, 1874.

MUTILATED CURRENCY.

The total amount of mutilated currency received from the Treasurer by the Comptroller since the passage of the Act of June 20th, last, is $41,000,000, nearly the whole amount of which has already been issued in new national bank notes.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

Execution at Ottawa, Ohio.

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Murder at a Ball.

ST. PAUL, December 30.—During a ball at Centerville, in the interior of Anoka County, on Monday night, an affray occurred between a party of Frenchmen, and Six Resinold, a French half-breed, was shot, and his body, when discovered in the stables, was cold, his murderers having retired their places in the dance. The body was brought into the ball room and placed on the floor in one corner in plain sight of the revelers, and the dance continued an hour or two.

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Two notorious horse thieves, named Tom Ryan and George Alexander, who murdered a gentleman named White, at Springfield, Mo., last October, were killed yesterday, near Oklahumlgee Territory, by Deteetive Franquilini, of Springfield, and another notorious outlaw, named Kinch West, was mortally wounded.

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PORTLAND, ME., December 30.—About 10 o'clock this evening, Thomas Pennell, treasurer of Cumberland county, was passed down in his office, and the safe robbed of between $8,000 and $10,000.

Murderer Convicted at South Bend.

SOUTH BEND, December 30.—The *Times'* South Bend special says the jury in the case of Jonathan Hickman, charged with the murder of Chauski, brought in a verdict to-day of murder in the first degree, and the punishment at imprisonment for life.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

Meeting of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas.

TOPEKA, KAN., December 30.—In the Circuit court this morning, Judge Dillon, of the United States Circuit Court, has appointed Wm. Bond, of New York, provisional temporary receiver of said company. Unless, if no objection is made for twenty days, and reserving to the Union Trust Company, of New York, trustee for all the bondholders, to file specific substitutes or complaints, in case and with the right reserved to said Trust Company or any bondholders upon ten days' notice, to move to order appointing the temporary receiver. This appointment was made by order of the railroad company's attorneys upon showing that a receiver was likely necessary to protect the property.

Trouble With Kentucky Miners.

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The Death of New Zealand.

ST. LOUIS, December 30.—Sir James Ferguson, Governor of New Zealand, accompanied by Mr. Russell and Leslie Hawks, left here to-day en route for [illegible]

Explosive Oil.

Sold by druggists. Checkered Front every dealer in it.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

The Appropriation Bills.

ORDER OF THEIR PRESENTATION TO CONGRESS.

Controversy Regarding the River and Harbor Bill.

Advantages of the Canadian Postal Convention.

Work of the Southern Claims Commission During the Year.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 30, 1874.

The Appropriation Bills.

The House Committee on Appropriations will, after the recess, report the remaining appropriation bills, in the following order: West Point Military Academy, Postoffice, Pension, Sundry Civil, Deficiency, and River and Harbor bills. The latter bill will involve several millions more than last year. The controversy between the Committees on Commerce and Appropriations as to which committee should report the bill, is likely to be revived. The Appropriation Committee do not object to the Committee on Commerce preparing the bill, but claim the right to regulate the appropriation.

The Postal Convention with Canada.

The Postal convention just signed between the United States and Canada is virtually a reduction of one-half on letters and printed matter. Under the former treaty, prepayment was not obligatory; the postage was collected to the Canada border by that Government, and by the United States from the line to the place of destination. Under the new arrangement, letters, postal cards and newspapers will be carried to Canada the same as if it were a portion of the United States. The extra month allowed before the latter portion goes into effect, is to avoid detention of the unprepaid letters now in transit.

Southern Claims Commission.

The Southern Claims Commissioners have disposed of 2,500 cases this year. The whole amount claimed in these cases was $5,242,705, of which the Commissioners allowed only $750,711. There are yet before the Commission 14,037 cases to be disposed of. The Commissioners have, during the last year, acted formally on 4,000 of these cases, in which the claimants served in the Confederate army. It was proved, however, that the parties he'd been drafted or conscripted into the rebel army, or had been in the employ, and had deserted at the first opportunity. Some of them had afterward gone into the Union army. The appropriations for their claims have yet to be made by Congress.

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FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE

France.

CONSULTATION ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL BILLS.

PARIS, December 30.—President of the Assembly Buffet, MM. Dufaure, Depeyre, Leon Say, De Kerdril and Chesnelong, and the Dukes de Broglie and d'Audiffret-Pasquier, leaders of the various groups in the Assembly, met to-day at the Elysee, at the suggestion of President MacMahon, to endeavor to arrive at an understanding concerning the constitutional laws. The Ministry were represented by the Duc Decazes, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and M. Chabaud-Latour, Minister of the Interior. A settlement of the differences upon these bills is hoped for. A significant note is published in *Le Francais*, warning the Assembly to fulfil its engagements.

Spain.

DEFECTION OF GENERAL CAMPOS.

MADRID, December 30.—Gen. Martinez Campos has pronounced in favor of Prince Alphonse, son of ex-Queen Isabella, and, with two battalions of soldiers, is at Murvidro, in the province of Valencia. A portion of the Republican Army of the Center has been withdrawn from the pursuit of the Carlists to march against him.

Marine News.

MOVILLE, December 30.—Steamship California, from New York, arrived.

European Markets.

LONDON, December 30, 5 P. M.—Consols for money 93 5-16@93⅝; for account 93 7-16@92. United States bonds—5-20's, 1865, 107; do. 1867, 107⅜; 10-40's, 104; new 5's, 105⅜. New York Central 94; Erie 20½@20⅝; preferred 42⅝. Refined petroleum 22½.

PARIS, December 30.—Rentes 61 francs 85 centimes.

LIVERPOOL, December 30.—Cotton quiet; middling upland 7¾d; Orleans 7¾d; sales 12,000 bales, including 2,000 for speculation and export and 7,000 American. Breadstuffs quiet. Bacon—long clear middles 38s 6d; short clear middles, heavy 37s 6d. Lard 48s. Refined petroleum 9s 6d@9s 9d.

NEW ORLEANS.

Warmoth Acquitted and Discharged.

NEW ORLEANS, December 30.—Coroner Delhance made an affidavit against Warmoth, charging him with murder. The case was tried to-day before Judge Staes. Several witnesses were examined. The testimony did not vary materially from the account of the affair given by ex-Governor Warmoth, which was telegraphed Saturday. After hearing all the evidence, Judge Staes decided that the charge of murder was not proven against H. C. Warmoth, and the prisoner was discharged.

THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE AT WORK.

NEW ORLEANS, December 30.—The Sub-Committee, consisting of Messrs. Foster, Phelps and Cutler, to investigate Louisiana affairs, met in the parlor of the St. Charles Hotel to-day. They decided to confine their investigations to the Returning Board and the White League. Messrs. Anderson and Arrago, members of the Returning Board, and John Ray (Republican) and Frank C. Zacharie (Conservative), counsel for the respective committees before the Returning Board, were examined as to the law and the mode of proceeding under it. Nothing new was developed. At the night session Messrs. Packard, White and Burke, of Orleans, and Knoblock, of La Fourche parish, were examined.

Mr. Packard stated that he knew of the organization of the White League before September 14th, and believed it extended throughout the State; that there were from three to five thousand white Republicans in New Orleans, less in proportion to white voters than in other portions of the State; he believed the colored voters were intimidated, some by threats of violence, others by threats to discharge, refusals to lease lands to blacks, etc. He stated that he did not believe a Republican State government could maintain itself in this city any Southern State without aid or protection of the United States troops; that on election day troops were stationed, one company at each police station, one in Lafayette square, and two in the Marine Hospital. He consulted with General Emory about the disposition of the troops. The reason they were so disposed was because there was telegraph connection between the police stations, and the troops could have been concentrated at any point.

Mr. White testified as to the registration and election in this district. He stated that 850 white Conservatives were stricken from the registration rolls who were entitled to vote, and that the authorities refused to add the names of several hundred fraudulently registered negroes, although they promised to do so.

Mr. Knoblock testified regarding the recent registration and election in La Fourche parish, and stated that there was no intimidation of any kind, and that 120 negroes voted the Conservative ticket. He stated that the Returning Board threw out forty tickets that were fraudulently stuffed in one of the boxes. The Conservatives carried the parish, notwithstanding, by a majority of 1,000. The fraudulent votes were also counted for Treasurer.

Major E. A. Burke was still testifying at eleven P. M., giving an account of the organization of the Conservative party for canvassing the city to verify the registration; that they detected 5,200 fraudulently registered names. One of the parties had registered in fourteen wards, and several others were discovered to have registered five or six times. They succeeded in getting but few of the fraudulently registered stricken from the rolls.

The object of the committee evidently is to investigate thoroughly the recent election, beginning with the registration, and ending with the Returning Board. One of the committee stated in conversation today, that the President had recognized the Legislature of 1872, but not that elected in November. They would, therefore, confine their investigations to the late election, which was an open question.

CLEVELAND.

Public Protest Against the Removal of Postmaster Allen—Post of the G. A. R. Disbanded—Death of a Prominent Lawyer.

CLEVELAND, December 30.—At a meeting of prominent business men, held at Garrett's Hall this evening, to take action on the recent removal of Postmaster Allen, resolutions were adopted indorsing the official management of Mr. Allen and strongly protesting against his removal. Speeches were made by Hon. R. P. Spalding, Hon. D. R. Tilden, Hon. J. P. Bishop, Judge R. F. Payne and others. Copies of the proceedings are to be sent to President Grant and the Postmaster General.

At a meeting of Haughton Post, Grand Army of the Republic, held last evening, it was decided to disband the organization on account of an accumulation of debt.

Jno. E. Carey, a prominent lawyer of this city, died last night.

THE WEATHER.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 31, [illegible] A. M., 1874.

PROBABILITIES.

For the South Atlantic and Gulf States and Tennessee, generally cloudy and colder weather will prevail, with light rain and snow, north or east winds and rising barometer. For New England, decidedly cold and generally clear weather, with brisk north-west winds and rising barometer. For the Middle States and Lower Lake Region, continued cold and partly cloudy weather, with areas of light snow, northerly winds and rising barometer during a portion of the day. For the Ohio Valley, the Upper Lake Region and the Northwest, generally clear and very cold weather, winds veering to easterly and southerly and continued high barometer. The Ohio river will continue to rise at stations below Marietta.

Midnight Bulletin.

December 30, 1874—10:48 P. M.

STATIONS.	Bar.	Ther	Wind	Weather.
Cairo	30 05	28	N. E.	Cloudy.
Cincinnati	30 70	26	N. E.	Clear.
Davenport	30 58	21	N. E.	Clear.
Indianapolis	30 79	21	N.	Clear.
Keokuk	30 75	11	N. E.	Clear.
Leavenworth	30 74	15	N. E.	Clear.
Louisville	30 04	26	N.	Cloudy.
Memphis	30 55	30	N. E.	Sleet.
Nashville	30 28	28	N.	Lt. snow.
Omaha	30 81	8	N. E.	Clear.
Pittsburgh	29 91	19	N. W.	Fair.
Shreveport	30 35	46	N. E.	Light rain.
St. Louis	30 72	21	N. E.	Clear.
St. Paul	30 81	8	N. W.	Clear.
Vicksburg	30 44	42	N.	Light rain.
Fort Gibson	30 44	25	E.	Cloudy.
La. Crosse	30 87	5	N.	Clear.
N. Prairie	30 35	12	S. E.	Cloudy.

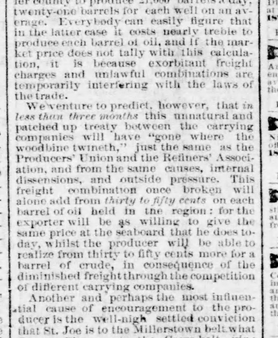
Two Fires in Corry—Loss $32,000.

CORRY, PA., December 30.—This morning, at 2:30, a fire commenced in a small alley between the Custom Hotel and the Capitol restaurant, opposite the Corry depot, and swept a block of seven buildings, from Centre street to Griffing's Hotel, including the United States Hotel, Capitol, Sportsman Hotel, American Hotel, Jackson's candy factory and Finch & Wheeler's billiard saloon. The total loss is about $25,000. Another fire broke out to-night, at 10:55, in the cooper shop of Howlitt, Bardwell & Co., buildings owned by A. F. Kent, consuming the entire shops and a vacant house near by. The loss is about $7,000.

A Reward is Offered

for a flour that will make as much or as good bread as the great White River, for the price.

TEAS & COFFEES



THE GREAT

FLOUR AND GROCERY HOUSE.

THE ONLY HOUSE THAT HANDLES

WHITE RIVER,
SNOW FLAKE and
GOLDEN FLEECE.

HEADQUARTERS FOR

GOSHEN CHEESE.
N. O. MOLASSES and
ROAST COFFEES.

☞ NO CHARGES FOR DRAYAGE.

MILWAUKEE.

Trade and Commerce Statement of the Year.

MILWAUKEE, December 30.—The annual statement of the trade and commerce of Milwaukee shows the receipts of wheat to be 25,667,444 bushels; shipments, 22,352,171. Flour—Receipts, 1,588,985 barrels; shipments, 2,208,418. Lumber—Receipts, 141,404,200 feet; lath, 14,108,500 feet; shingles, 178,087,000. Cattle—Receipts, 20,925; live hogs, 257,907; dressed hogs, 76,094. A carefully prepared statement shows that there have been 850 buildings erected in the city during the year, at a cost of about three and a half millions.

VICKSBURG.

Arrival of the Congressional Committee—Election for Sheriff To-day—The Matter Greatly Simplified.

VICKSBURG, December 30.—The Congressional Committee to investigate the Vicksburg troubles, arrived to-day. The Legislative Committee instructed to investigate the Vicksburg insurrection has been in session several days. The special election to fill Crosby's place as Sheriff, will be held to-morrow. The negroes will take no part, so the election of the white candidate is assured.

THE PETROLEUM INTEREST.

A More Hopeful Outlook—Decreased Production and Increased Consumption.

[From the Titusville Herald, 30th.]

The year 1874, which has been so full of darkness and blight to the oil region, has almost run its course, and whilst we deplore the misfortunes of those who have fallen by the way, it is a matter of great consolation that the year 1875 approaches with omens of better cheer and promise to the people of the oil region.

The principal grounds for a more inspiring outlook are, as far as relates to the oil business, two-fold. First, a greatly diminished production; secondly, what is equally important, a largely increased consumption of our staple at home and abroad.

As regards the former, it is only necessary to mention that a year ago to-day there were, in Butler county, five hundred (500) wells, producing 30,000 barrels of oil a day, or at the rate of sixty barrels a day, on an average for each well, whilst to-day it takes nearly one thousand (1,000) wells in Butler county to produce 21,000 barrels a day, a falling-off of nearly fifty per cent. on an average. Everybody can easily figure that in the latter case it costs nearly treble to produce each barrel of oil, and if the market price does not influ with this calculation, it is because exorbitant freight charges and unlawful combinations are temporarily interfering with the laws of the country.

We venture to predict, however, that *in less than three months* this unnatural and patched up treaty between the carrying companies will have spent its force, the woodbine twineth," just the same as the Producers' Union and the Refiners' Association, and from the same causes, internal dissensions, and outside pressure. This freight combination once broken will alone add from *thirty to fifty cents* on each barrel of oil paid in the region: for the exporter will be just as willing to give the same price at the seaboard that he does today, whilst the producer will be able to realize from thirty to fifty cents more for a barrel of crude, in consequence of the diminished freight and the keener competition of different carrying companies.

Another and perhaps the most influential cause of encouragement to the producer is the well-nigh settled conviction that St. Joe is to the Millerstown belt what Greece City was to the Cross-belt, viz.: That the paying territory has been found to end near St. Joe.

And here we would impress upon the producer one fact, that such a state of things makes every acre of good-producing territory north of St. Joe, *worth treble what it was six weeks ago*, irrespective of the temporary price of oil; and we say, therefore, to every producer, this is a good time to hold on to your territory and to your producing wells.

In respect to consumption, our latest advices from Europe, as well as the information which we receive from the trade in this country, lead to the belief that the present consumption is nearly *twenty per cent.* more than it was a year ago, caused, no doubt, by the extremely low price, and also by the hard times, on account of which hundreds of tradesmen and families have substituted petroleum for gas. The large surplus of stocks which had accumulated in Europe up to the month of September is becoming greatly diminished, and we anticipate an unusually brisk export demand in the early spring.

This increase of consumption over all the world is an additional reason for producers to hold on to their good territory and producing wells, and thus ready for whatever is to the benefit of a buoyant and remunerative market.

Isn't this beautiful? The Richmond (Va.) *Dispatch* of December 24, says: "Several letters in the postoffice here, evidently written by children, indicate that the children, anticipating Christmas and visit of Santa Claus, are reminding him of what they most desire. One of them is directed 'Santa Claus, Greenland, North Pole.' Another is directed as follows: 'Santa Claus, sleigh drawn by eight reindeers.' An open letter, directed simply 'Santa Claus,' reads as follows: 'Mr. Santa Claus: A big wagon—not so very big, 4 wheels, 2 packs two crackers, a Mother Goose and book, Wilmer.' 'Nellie wants a carriage, and a baby, and some candy. I want a baby and candy, a little story book. Isabella.'"

By means of one or two processes now in vogue in some of the European workshops, an article is produced equal, in all respects, to the celebrated Damascus iron and steel of antiquity.

LUXURY, Health, Economy insured by using Dooley's Yeast Powder. Elegant Light Rolls, Biscuits, &c., prepared in ten minutes. Try it.

Look Out for Dealers

that represent they have White River Flour under other brands. This is often done to make sales.

HOLIDAY GOODS! HOLIDAY GOODS!

GEO. W. HASLETT

OFFERS TO HIS PATRONS AND FRIENDS

A MOST SUPERB COLLECTION OF

Watches, Diamonds, Jewelry,

Silver-Ware, Bronzes and Fancy Goods.

No. 78 SMITHFIELD ST.

HOLIDAY GOODS! HOLIDAY GOODS!

FOR RENT.

FOR RENT—ROOMS—NICELY FURNISHED Rooms, with or without Board. Apply at No. 60 Ross street.

FOR RENT—ROOM—LARGE WELL lighted second floor Room, 41x60 feet, with front entrance, located on Smithfield street. The party leaving it has a three year lease. For particulars address Box A. E., Commercial office.

FOR RENT—NO. 61 FOURTH AVENUE. Office on 2nd floor, with fire-proof Vault, Counters, &c., suitable for Banking, Insurance or other business. Will furnish 2nd floor room, Water Closet. Inquire at Merchants' and Manufacturers' National Bank.

FOR RENT—A HANDSOME BRICK Dwelling House, on Cliff street. Parlors, Dining Room and Kitchen on first floor; Gas, dry Cellar, 3 Bedrooms and finished Attic. Water and modern improvements. The Lot extends from street to street. Will be rented reasonable. Possession given immediately. For particulars apply to WM. EVANS, Commercial office.

FOR RENT OR SALE—NEW TWO-STORY Frame House, with Bay Window, containing 6 Rooms, Vestibule and Hall, Water in House, Lot 25x200, Fruit Trees, Grapevines, &c., located on Grandview avenue, Mount Washington, with south view, commanding the finest view in the city. Rent moderate to a good tenant. For particulars, &c., apply to E. ABEL, Commercial Counting Room.

ELECTION NOTICES.

MASONIC

The Commercial.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1874.

GENERAL SHERIDAN is the incarnate genius of readiness; and hence the White League conspirators of New Orleans do well at his coming.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLASS estimates that the amount of tax paid into the Treasury by the national banks for the year now closing will aggregate $9,000,000; which is $1,500,000 more than was collected last year.

A HARRISBURG Democratic paper says that if its party wants to elect the Governor in 1875, they must take their candidate from the West. All right. Let them take BROWN, of the Clarion *Democrat*. He is immensely popular.

THE Democrats, generally, do not object to the re-imposition of the duty upon tea and coffee; but when it comes to increasing the tax on whisky ten cents per gallon, they cry out. Touch them *there* and you touch the tenderest spot about them.

THE trade of Boston has seriously declined during the year, having decreased eleven millions in imports and over three millions in exports, as compared with 1873. Hence its anxiety to obtain a new outlet to the West via the Hudson is the most natural thing in the world.

CHICAGO has been bold in boasting of its great hotels; but the landlords of the Grand Pacific will hardly regard them as a subject of congratulation. They are involved to the extent of two millions, and have been compelled to give the house up. It was a grand and magnificent hotel; but it didn't pay.

HENRY WARD BEECHER persists in fighting out his battle with TILTON in the columns of the newspapers, while the latter prefers to try it in the courts, where the case properly belongs. The intense anxiety of BEECHER to get his case before the newspaper jury is evidence of his unwillingness to abide a strictly judicial scrutiny.

THE total vote of Louisiana, as officially declared by the Returning Board, for Representatives in Congress, was 71,627 Democratic, and 67,465 Republican; a Democratic majority of 4,162. The Democrats carried three districts, and the Republicans three. The vote for State Treasurer was 69,544 Republican, and 68,586 Democratic; a Republican majority of 958.

WE HAVE received from Harrisburg several extra copies of the Report of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Society, vols. 8 and 9, and Report on Mines and Mining for 1873, which can be had by those desiring them on application at our Counting Room. Also, two complete sets of Legislative Journals and Documents for 1874, which some of the city libraries may find useful.

THE Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Central Company are considering a proposition from Buffalo grain parties to erect an elevator with capacity of one to one and a half million bushels. This means that Colonel SCOTT intends to enter into lively competition with the Baltimore and Ohio Company for the trade of Baltimore.

THE heavy disbursement of dividends which will take place within a day or two, amounting in Boston, Philadelphia and New York to the estimated sum of $150,000,000, to say nothing of dividends at other leading commercial centers, may reasonably be expected to infuse considerable life into the various commercial and industrial interests of the country at a comparatively early day.

THE New York *Herald* has achieved another notable triumph. One of its intellectual giants, who recently interviewed the cultivated chief of the Comanches, modestly says that after a protracted conversation upon a variety of interesting topics, the admiring brave candidly "acknowledged himself outwitted in his questioning and answering!" What a pity it is that the cloated casuist did not try his hand at hair-raising instead of hair-splitting.

THE "hard times" seems to have had little effect in the way of retarding building improvements in Philadelphia. During the year just closing, permits were issued for 5,040 new buildings, and 1,434 for alterations and additions, while in 1873 the number of new buildings reached 5,221, and of alterations and additions 1,333. Of the 5,040 new structures this year erected, 4,399 are dwelling houses. "The City of Homes" is in no present danger of losing its title.

GLADSTONE'S pamphlet on the Vatican decrees has attained a circulation in England of 125,000 for the regular edition, and 250,000 for the cheap edition, and the demand still continues active. No political pamphlet ever had such a circulation as this, and the eagerness with which it is sought for and read by the English people is evidence that it has struck a popular chord, and that the public mind takes a deeper interest in the question it discusses than in any other public question whatever.

WITH reference to the proposed reciprocity treaty with Canada, it is said that the Dominion Parliament will insist on putting Great Britain on a footing of perfect equality with our own country in regard to the duties upon its imports. We have always maintained that the real object of the scheme was to make Canada the port of entry to the United States, by which British manufactures might be admitted free—and here is proof of it. But it is of comparatively little importance what the Dominion Government proposes to "insist" on—the treaty will not be ratified here.

SPEAKING of KALAKAUA, who is now visiting Boston, the *Post*, of that city, says: "The King, irrespective of his rank, is a man that may be honored in any country. He is broad and progressive in his views, and modest and courteous in his bearing." This is true; and yet he is as dusky as FREDERICK DOUGLASS or Prof. LANGSTON. If a respectable colored foreigner is worthy of honor irrespective of rank, why is not a colored native entitled to honor according to his character and desert? And if it be conceded that he is, what is the reason that Democrats spell the word negro with two g's?

IGNORANCE and crime, it has been proved over and over, go hand in hand. The recent report of the National Prison Association shows that forty-eight per cent. of all the convicts in the United States can neither read nor write.—*Exchange.*

If the fact that forty-eight per cent. of the convicts in the United States cannot read or write, proves that ignorance and crime go hand in hand, what does the other fact prove, that fifty-two per cent. of them *can* read and write? The percentage on that side being the greatest, does it follow, as a consequence, that crime go hand in hand? We think not; but one conclusion is as fair as the other.

THE leading bankers of New York city having been asked their opinions of the Senate Finance bill, the *Evening Post* of that city publishes their replies, and the confusion of views appears to be hopeless. It is almost impossible, according to the *Post*, to find two bankers of the same mind as to the details of any measure for financial relief; and yet there is no class more ready in censuring Congress for not agreeing upon a subject about which they cannot themselves agree. The fact is that there is a complete chaos reigning in the public mind on the financial question, every man forming his ideas from his own interested standpoint, and the only wonder is that Congress should be able to agree at all upon any financial plan. To frame measures to carry out the well-settled views of the public is easy; but to legislate upon a question concerning which every one has a different theory, is so difficult as to be well nigh impossible.

THE death of that truly noble man, GERRIT SMITH, has called out from all sections of the newspaper press the strongest encomiums ever heaped upon the head of a man so prominent in public life as he has been. Every body has a good, kind word for him. He lived a pure life, and made a grand use of the abundant means in his hands. His great ambition was to do good and to promote the highest interests of his fellow men. His heart was always open to the pleas of the suffering and the oppressed, and although he was ultra in all his views, his patriotism and his humanity were always uppermost. America has never yet produced a nobler specimen of a MAN, and the general recognition of his virtues and qualities, now that he has passed away, show that a right and unselfish use of great means and abilities, and a high standard of thought and action, will win universal approval quicker and more surely than a course of life which involves merely selfish and sensuous gratification. GERRIT SMITH was a true philanthropist, and therefore a true Christian man. He loved his fellow men, because he loved GOD, and the record of his beautiful life bears witness to the union which binds true religion and humanity inseparably together.

A CONTRAST.

When M. GUIZOT was King LOUIS PHILIPPE'S first Minister, and one day, in the Chamber of Deputies, was most perseveringly badgered and insulted by certain members of the opposition, the great leader, in reply, said that "they might by their factious assaults wear out and exhaust his physical energy, but that they could never reach the level of his contempt." As the haughty glance and whole appearance of the speaker corresponded with and confirmed his words, the impression was such as could never be forgotten, either by the friends or the enemies of the Minister. It is now known, however, that from that memorable parliamentary conflict GUIZOT went home so ill that his family feared for his life. A late scene in the German Reichstag presents BISMARCK in striking contrast to GUIZOT. The Chancellor, in the course of the debate, thought proper to repeat the conversation he had held with KULLMANN, his would-be assassin. With body bent forward and resting on his right arm, in a voice tremulous with suppressed emotion, he deliberately, stated what he had said to the ruffian and what the ruffian had said to him. As in this colloquy KULLMANN had claimed to be the avenger of the Ultramontane party, a violent storm at once followed the speech in which this claim had been repeated. BISMARCK had taken his seat and was quietly watching the scene, when an aristocratic champion of the church, in the way of response to a reference made by a speaker to the Chancellor's statement, uttered an emphatic "pshaw!" Then BISMARCK quickly rose, and "with a quite indescribable look and tone of derisive disdain," said:—"The interjection 'pshaw' implies disgust and contempt. Believe me, gentlemen, those feelings are not foreign to me, but I am too courteous to give them expression." The "pshaw" had been rebuked by the President; BISMARCK'S words, though strong, were not unparliamentary, and from the applause with which they were received, it was evident that the speaker had well understood his audience. Doubtless BISMARCK is as proud and arrogant as GUIZOT, but in the German there are elements which the Frenchman seems to have wholly lacked, bonhommie, sympathy, tact.

BISMARCK, with all his remarkable qualities, is thoroughly human. GUIZOT, as stated above, went home thoroughly unwell from the effects of a parliamentary struggle. BISMARCK, it seems, on the day of the conflict just mentioned, was very ill, and before going to the Reichstag was afraid of being unable to attend to his duties there. But he returned home feeling much better and more cheerful than usual, and on being asked by his wife what had caused the change, he replied, smiling, "O, I have had a little row (*Pankerei*)." This bit of information on a high subject—quid Juno confabulata est cum Jove—we owe to a kind correspondent who enjoyed the happiness of attending the usual soiree at the Chancellor's palace. The Prince, being especially well and in good humor, was very communicative, and as two pistols, neither new nor elegant, were lying on the table in one of the parlors, they became the subject of conversation. One of them had been used by KULLMANN and the other had been used by BLIND, the young man who attacked BISMARCK under the Lindens on the 6th of May, 1866. The Prince told his guests that he had received in all four shots from BLIND, but that on account of the weakness of the weapon they had not hurt him. In fact, the revolver was one of the old fashioned kind; for convenience and convenient concealment in carrying it the forward barrels had been screwed off, and the small hinder barrels, contrary to BLIND'S supposition, proved too feeble for his purpose. BLIND was a powerful young man, and BISMARCK felt almost exhausted by his struggle with him, when fortunately the grenadier watch came up. But the first soldier not knowing the Prince by sight and taking for granted that the larger of the two men must be the aggressor in the quarrel he presumed, was about to knock BISMARCK down with his mace, when the commanding officer opportunely arrived and seized the weapon.

CASTELAR'S impressions of Rome, as they are given in his little book on the subject, are more interesting than one might expect from the triteness of the subject. While there is nothing precisely novel in his remarks, they are so plainly original with him, so manifestly the results of his own observation and reflection as to be well worthy of attention. For the city of Rome CASTELAR confesses a feeling of profound reverence. It stands isolated and alone, the only one of the great cities of old, which has survived through the ravages of the antique and the Christian world. Those, however, who suppose CASTELAR to be a Roman Catholic, will be surprised to find that the papacy has no part or lot in the veneration with which he regards the Eternal City. The "churches with their colossal majesty" awaken no enthusiasm in the Spanish statesman. Those "architectural monuments in marble and bronze, glittering with precious stones, rich in decorations of mosaic and bas-reliefs," dazzle but do not move him. On the contrary, the coldness of their marble touches his soul. It is in the catacombs, in which "the seed grain of the Christian idea lay concealed during four hundred years;" it is in those vaults where, by the light of a torch one reads inscriptions recorded there by martyrs or contemplates fresco pictures which even now almost seem to drop blood, that CASTELAR becomes conscious of the sentiments appropriate to the capital of the Christian world. In presence of the Papal Court and its surroundings, all such sentiments vanish from his soul. He, however, in justice to the Church of Rome, if not in mockery, recals the famous story told by BOCCACCIO—how a Jew of Paris, we believe, had for years resisted all efforts of a Christian priest to convert him. The Jew scoffed the very idea that he could forsake the religion of MOSES for the faith of Rome. But at length the Jew visited Rome on business, and when he had returned, he went at once to the good priest and demanded baptism. He said, "my father, I am converted; since in spite of all the scandals I have seen and heard of in Rome this Christian religion still subsists, and even increases in growth and power, it must verily be in possession of the truth and under the immediate protection of Heaven." Thus no one can say that Senor CASTELAR is not a candid and fair-minded traveler in the City of the Church.

THE fact that the negroes of the South are superstitious, and that some of them still practice Voodooism, which their forefathers brought from heathen Africa with them, has been cited against them as evidence that they are still barbarians, and therefore unfit for civil rights. But, if that is to be a test, what shall we do with such credulous creatures as ROBERT DALE OWEN and those who still believe in KATIE KING as a materialized spirit? The Philadelphia *Ledger* of Monday last contained the cards of fifteen mediums, who advertise their business regularly and openly, and name the places where those who "seek unto familiar spirits" may consult them much more openly than SAUL consulted the Witch of Endor, and with as little shame as the negroes of the South show in keeping up the heathenish Voodoo rites. These fifteen mediums all make a good living off their numerous victims, some of them charging as low as fifty and twenty-five cents a sitting, and there are dozens of others in the same business who do not advertise. They are all well patronized, and that fact proves that superstition is as rife among the whites in Philadelphia as among the negroes in the South.

HENRY WARD BEECHER is widely quoted as having said to his congregation, the day before Christmas: "Christmas is to me a foreign day, and I shall die so." So much the greater pity for him. Christmas is the world's day of Thanksgiving. What though, within our single country, the Puritan substitute has gained countenance of the law, yet not even the most religious feel their pulses beat in unity with all the human brotherhood, that day. But the anthem of the angels to the shepherds that "watched their flocks by night," at Christmastide repeats itself in every worshipful soul, and inspires, in almost every household in Christendom, the Christmas atmosphere of peace and good will. If the day which celebrates the advent of the Divinest presence that ever walked the earth; the day which echoes back to the gifted heavens the divinest song that ever woke to love and joy and hope the highest aspirations of humanity—can find no welcomed access to Mr. BEECHER'S heart and soul—then, of all men else, he is poorest and most forlorn.

GOV. TILDEN, of New York, will take strong ground, in his first message to the Legislature, against the financial bill pending in Congress. He will denounce it, not as being wrong in itself, but as anticipating the work which he thinks the *next* Congress should do. He does not care how much the country suffers in the meantime. The only thing he is anxious about is, that his party should have all the credit of whatever is done. If he were a statesman, as he should be, instead of a pitiful demagogue, as he is, he would rejoice at the early settlement of a vexatious question, without regard to its effect upon parties. The true statesman always inquires, concerning the effect of any pending measure, how will it affect the country? while the mere politician inquires, how will it affect our party? TILDEN plainly belongs to the latter class, and he will denounce the Finance bill solely because it robs his party of the credit of passing it.

ELSEWHERE we print a letter from a former citizen of Pittsburgh, now a resident of Nebraska, concerning the destitution and suffering in that State—consequent on the ravages of the grasshoppers—whose plain, unvarnished sentences, eloquent with the realism of woe, ought surely, in this most gracious season of charity and humanity, to appeal not in vain to the inmost heart of even the most callous. The writer is vouched for by a number of our most prominent business men as in all respects honorable and worthy of perfect credence. Something should be done, and that quickly. We suggest that the churches of our two cities take the initiative in the matter next Sunday.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Is a Congressman's fortune all in his eye?

It is coming—New Year's Day, and the bills.

Gerrit Smith inherited 1,500,000 acres of land.

Believers in spookology are growing fewer.

Watterson says they want brains in Washington. Then why has he gone there?

This is the last day of the year. Let it end well, and the new year will begin all the better.

King Kalakaua is going to write a book of his travels and notable experiences in this country.

The New York *World* is like a wagon: it rattles so prodigiously because there is so little in it.

A Kentuckian named Poor objects to dueling because he never can make anything but a poor shot.

Dana is said to give the whole of his mind to editing the *Sun*. Still it isn't more than half edited.

The California hog crop of this season has exceeded the most sanguine anticipations of the local packers.

Debts, national, State, county, city and private, are the questions which the public press is now mainly discussing.

The Mennonites are a sensible people. They are commencing to arrive at Philadelphia instead of at New York.

The New Bedford, Mass., cotton mills have joined in the general movement in that trade to run full time after New Year.

The Maine Centennial board has resolved to canvass that State during the next six months, to raise Maine's share of the fund.

In ten years no less than 12,000,000 acres of timber have been cut down and burned over in order to render land fit for cultivation.

It is an old saying, that "a green Christmas makes a fat graveyard." The death rate is increasing nearly all over the country.

The Senate Committee on Transportation expect to have their report upon that subject finished by the time Congress reassembles.

Queries the New York *Herald*—"is it better to be wicked or stupid?" Surely that paper ought to know—itself sometimes being both.

The farmers' clubs all over the West are resolving more and more that "we are not a political organization," which demonstrates their wisdom.

Several very important scientific works are now rapidly passing through the Government printing office, and will soon be ready for distribution.

During the past year eighty-two new Lutheran churches have been built in the United States, costing all the way from $1,000 to $125,000 each.

The solid men of Boston seem at length to be in downright earnest about a new railroad to the West from that city, which shall avoid New York.

Smith, the Illinois man who was kidnapped by Tennessee officials and carried to that State, has been released by the authorities and sent home.

Boston has actually detailed a policeman to prevent vagrants from frequenting the public library during the winter, for the purpose of "warming up."

The New York *Graphic* has brought out a new branch of advertising. It consists in publishing the portraits of absconded bank robbers, defaulters and the like.

There is a heroine in Michigan who hauls wood to market, and afterward saws it for her customers. In this way she supports a sick husband and four children.

The groves of rose trees and the flower farms of Morocco are said by a recent traveler to exceed in extent and value those of Damascus, or even of the valley of Mexico.

The St. Louis *Times* is to be changed from a folio to a quarto. It has passed under the entire control of Mr. Stillson Hutchins, also manager of the *Evening Dispatch*.

It is stated that Dr. Manning has submitted to the Pope a scheme respecting the conduct of the Roman Catholic Church in England in its eventual struggle with the government.

Where's Patton? A Presbyterian clergyman recently assisted a Jewish rabbi, a Congregationalist minister and a Unitarian preacher to instal a Universalist pastor in San Francisco.

The negro exodus from Georgia continues. The Atlanta papers daily notice the departure of car-loads of them from that town. The majority go to Mississippi, but many to Texas.

New York merchants are gradually relinquishing Broadway and betaking themselves to the side streets, where business is nearly as good, and where all their profits are not paid over to landlords.

Roger Williams' watch was exhibited at a recent meeting of the Rhode Island Historical Society. It is still running, and is apparently in as good condition as when he wore it to this country in 1631.

It is calculated that the loss to the workpeople engaged in the woolen manufactures, the cotton trade, and the bricklaying trade of England, alone, by "Idle Monday," amounts to $37,000,000 per annum.

A Mercantile Marine Service Association is to be established in New York after the plan of similar associations in Europe, where a sort of intelligence office will keep a list of all shipmasters, whether active or unemployed.

Apropos of that recent Georgia duel, it is a curious fact that Lay, one of the principals, recently wrote a satire on dueling, entitled "Down the River," and that McTardy, who was killed, wrote a complimentary notice of it.

The demand for immediate specie payments is something of the same character as the old Frenchman's demand for his money of a savings bank. "If you no got him I must have him, but if you got him plenty I no want him."

There is a marked revival among the Mohammedans of Lucknow. Old, deserted temples have been repaired, and are crowded with worshippers. Street preaching has been resorted to and schools have been opened in which the doctrines of Islamism are taught.

There was a decrease of one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight in the number of emigrants leaving England during November, as compared with November, 1873, and a decrease of sixty-six thousand nine hundred during the eleven months of this year compared with the same period of last year.

The firm of Walter A. Wood & Co., manufacturers of mowing machines, at Troy, New York, have just received an order for eight thousand machines to be sent to England. The value of this order is $1,000,000, and to fill it and others on hand will give employment to over five hundred men until next July.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

DAVID, KING OF ISRAEL: His Life and Its Lessons. By the Rev. William M. Taylor, D.D., pastor of Broadway Tabernacle, New York city. Published by Harper & Brothers, New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

These discourses, while they strongly smack of the pulpit style of thought, are, however, remarkable for broad and liberal views of the great King of Israel. There is evidence that the author was much enraptured with his theme, as is shown by its treatment. Possessed of a brilliant imagination, the author has lavished his wealth of elegant and chaste language in preparing the work. In some respects the book was prepared as a key to the Psalms, which he calls the "throbbing heart of the Holy Scriptures." Dr. Taylor has aimed to present the personal history of King David in connection with the public events of his reign, and viewing the work in this light, it increases the interest in King David, and his relations to peculiar public occasions are made clear and satisfactory. The mind of many a Christian will be greatly strengthened by this faithful portraiture of the King of Israel. There is a frankness on the part of the author in dealing with this great man, which commends the work to all readers.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY OF EUSEBIUS. The First Book and Selections, Edited for Schools and Colleges by E. A. March, LL. D., Published by Harper & Brothers, New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., of Pittsburgh.

We have already noticed the movement to introduce Christian writers of Greek and Latin, instead of Pagan poets, which are tainted with the corrupting influences of the age. This is the second volume of the "Douglass Series," which has been prepared with great care, and gives abundant evidence of sound scholarship. The Introduction, by Dr. Ballard, of Layfayette College, gives a clear and concise account of Eusebius, and his events as a writer of Christian history. The explanatory notes, comprising eighty-three pages, are very full and satisfactory; also, the elaborate historical and geographical index, covering twenty-nine pages. We think from the favorable reception of the first volume of the series, that this and the succeeding volumes will be received in like manner.

BRAVE AND BOLD; or, The Fortunes of a Factory Boy. By Horatio Alger, Jr., Author of "Ragged Dick," etc. Published by Loring, For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

This volume is the first of a new series by that capital writer for the young, Mr. Alger, and is of a bolder type than the "Luck and Pluck" series. It pictures the life of one who boldly and courageously met the adversities and trials which frequently cross the pathway of youth, with a heroism that was finally crowned with success. The reading of this story ought to encourage young boys to manfully assume the duties of life, seeking the right and good way, and fortune ought to crown their efforts.

STRENGTH AND BEAUTY. Discussions for Young Men. By Mark Hopkins, D.D. Published by Dodd & Mead, New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

Such is the character of Dr. Hopkins as a scholar, author and educator, that it would be safe to commend anything from his pen. Aside from his personal qualities, this work may safely stand upon its sterling merits. These essays, among them reproductions from Baccalaureate discourses, are upon living themes and such as give "strength and beauty" to young men. With all the Doctor's profound philosophical style, these essays are lucid, direct, practical. The topics treated are: The Preacher's Book, How to Use the Bible, The True Method of Presenting God, Conceptions of the Divinity, Practical Uses of the Divine Ideal, The Manifestation of God Through Christ, Views of the Divine Life in Human Conditions, Sins and Sinfulness, The Sense of Personal Sin, The growth of Christian Life, Christian Manhood, Life and Immortality.

PUDDLEFORD PAPERS; or, Humors of the West. By H. H. Riley. With original Illustrations. Published by Lee & Shepard, Boston. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

This is a collection of Western sketches of a humorous type, embracing law and gospel, educational efforts, social war, politics, love and courtship, amusements, theology and sundry other things, which happened at Puddleford. Under cover of these rollicking sketches there is a deal of wise sayings interwoven throughout the book. The reader will obtain a good idea of the habits, vernacular, oddities of life seen in the West, especially the frontiers. The cosmopolitan character of villages and towns, with the foibles and follies, are here shown up in life-like style. The illustrations are characteristic and are in admirable keeping with the text.

JOHN THOMPSON, AND OTHER STORIES. By Louisa Parr. Author of "Dorothy Fox," etc. Published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

Perhaps the crowning excellence of these delightful stories is their purity of style and healthy sentiments. They are of a cheerful type, fresh and piquant, and just the sort for leisure reading, and they are seasonable these holiday times. The author's "Dorothy Fox" was a charming love-tale, and the readers of that novel will find this work equally worthy.

RISEN FROM THE RANKS; or, Harry Walton's Success. By Horatio Alger, Jr., Author of "Ragged Dick," etc. Published by Loring, Boston. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

"Risen from the Ranks" is one of the "Luck and Pluck Series," published by Loring, the noted book caterer for boys. This series contains stories of the dashing type, and represent scenes and incidents in the lives of some boys who have risen from the lowest to the highest rung of the ladder of fame. It shows what a boy, who is industrious, prudent and keeps out of bad society, can accomplish. Harry Walton's success is an illustration of what other boys may do. Get the book, boys, and read it.

BOUND BY HIS VOWS; or At the Altar. A Romance. From the German of E. Warner, Author of "Good Luck," etc. By J. S. L. Published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia. For Sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

There is a considerable German flavor about this story, but there is a freshness and originality that the lovers of a sprightly romance will admire. We get a glimpse of society in the old world, by reading such translations, that we would lose were they not so well reproduced. The characters are strongly drawn, and presented with much delicacy of expression, with just enough of edge to give vim to the story. The volume, like "John Thompson," is nicely roled in light covers, neatly chased in black.

FAST FRIENDS. By J. T. Trowbridge, author of "Jack Hazard and His Fortunes," etc. Published by R. Osgood & Co., Boston. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

This is a delightfully well-told story, portraying the ups and downs of George, who left his home in Western New York to seek his fortune in the world. His trip by the canal packet, and associate, Jack, on the trip, and advent into New York and their subsequent episodes, are presented in graphic style by Mr. Trowbridge, who possesses remarkable talents for this kind of writing. Those who have read his charming stories in *Our Young Folks* and elsewhere, will have abundant evidence of his gifts in this respect. Without following the adventures of these "Fast Friends," we think our young readers will find many lessons of moral worth which are calculated to establish character and fit them for usefulness in society.

THE OLD WOMAN WHO LIVED IN A SHOE. By Amanda M. Douglas. Published by W. F. Gill & Co., Boston. For sale by J. W. Pittock & Co., Pittsburgh.

This is a pleasantly told story for very young people, and one, too, from which even older people may learn something. The colloquies are rich and racy, and every one will be pleased with the central character, "Granny Kenneth," whose simple life and constant aim was to do other people good. It is nicely illustrated and admirably suited for the holiday season.

CHOICE RECIPES. By M. S. W. Published by James R. Osgood & Co., Boston. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

There is so much about this little volume that is commendable, compared with the bulky "Cook-Books" generally on sale, that we regard it as a model book. The recipes are expressed in few words, and so plainly, that every house wife can understand them. It is claimed that every recipe has passed the test of actual trial, which we think quite likely to be true. We repeat, the directions are so plain, and full of common sense, that no intelligent and competent housekeeper will be misled. A number of blank pages are attached for writing additions, which is a happy thought of the publishers.

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. By Frank S. Stockton. Published by Dodd & Mead, New York. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

In this most excellent little volume we have a delightful child's story, in which are reproduced some sketchy incidents of negro character. It is an "Ole Virgin'a," story, and gives an admirable picture of a Virginia "aunty" and "uncle," who are singularly associated with children's books, and are not so much for the purpose to harmonize with the story, as to make the story harmonize with them. Rating these things, it is a story in which the better nature of humanity appears on the surface. It is nicely illustrated, and would do for a gift book.

HEADS AND TAILS: Studies and Stories of Pets. By Grace Greenwood. Published by J. B. Ford & Co., New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh. Price, $2 00.

This very handsome book for young folks reached us almost at the ushering in of Christmas—promptly delivered by our friends named—too late to announce to buyers for Christmas, but we hope many, before the New Year shall break upon us, will get the volume for the "olive plants" around their fireside. "Heads and Tails" consists of a dozen or more of that genial author's bright and cheery sketches, with bits of personal experience interwoven like mosaics. There is embodied, too, wit, pathos, tenderness, and a vein of rollicking humor, runs through the book. The illustrations are chaste, paper heavy, type bright, and the cover of a dainty type. For such a nice book the price is low.

F. GRANT & COMPANY; or, Partnerships. By Rev. George L. Chaney. Published by Roberts Brothers, Boston. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

This *fine* publishing house design this little juvenile for boys who "mean business." It is a story brimful of amusement and instruction, and of rollicking, don't-care style in its composition. Boys will like it, at least five boys. By all means, boys, get it, and judge for yourselves.

PERSONAL.

John P. Foley, for several years editor of the Washington *National Republican*, has retired from that position.

The widow of a general, who served under the First Napoleon, resides in Buena Vista county, Iowa, and annually draws her "widow's mite" of eighty dollars from the French government.

A Yankee armed with an essay on trusses, by Beecher, advertises a patent affair under a likeness of the reverend gentleman. After the rupture he made in Tilton's family, Beecher is a truss-worthy authority in such matters.

Mrs. Asa B. Hutchinson, a lady of considerable reputation as a lecturer, was stricken with paralysis while lecturing at Rushford, Minn., on the 26th inst., and died within a half hour. She was the wife of the "Hutchinson Family," and was herself a member of the "Tribe of Asa."

Gerrit Smith was twice married. His first wife was a daughter of the Rev. Dr. Backus, then President of Union College, but she lived only a year after their marriage and died without children. Subsequently he married a daughter of Colonel Fitzhugh, of Livingston county, who survives him. He leaves but two children, Peter Smith, who is a naturalist of some distinction and an occasional lecturer at Cornell University, and Mrs. Elizabeth Smith Miller, wife of Colonel Charles D. Miller, of Geneva, New York.

The latest materialising medium is one Mott, of Memphis, Missouri, aged about thirty years. The Chicago *Times* has a two-page account of his seances, in which appear some most marvelous stories, and the writer is convinced of his sincerity. He regrets that the "power" has come upon him, since it has caused much uneasiness in domestic grievances, his own family repudiating him. The *Times* says he is the best materialising medium in the country, and that he earnestly invites the closest investigation, scientific and otherwise. From which it would appear that the exposure of the Holmeses has by no means settled the ghost business.

The statistics in the Charley Ross case, now coming in, are depressing enough. More than twenty thousand dollars have been expended. Commissioners have searched from ocean to ocean and across. Seven hundred circulars have been issued; printing and photographs have cost eight thousand dollars. A corps of clerks has been employed in the correspondence about the boy. Two hundred bands of gypsies have been searched. One stray boy has been found and taken home to his mourning parents. Six hundred Charley Rosses have been reported. At least half a million persons at one time or another have been on the search. And with all this nothing has been heard of him ever since his kidnappers were discovered.

A Valuable Medical Treatise.

The edition for 1875 of the sterling Medical Annual, known as Hostetter's Almanac, is now ready, and may be obtained, free of cost, of druggists and general country dealers in all parts of the United States and British America, and indeed in every civilized portion of the Western Hemisphere. This Almanac has been issued regularly at the commencement of every year for about one-fifth of a century, it combines, with the soundest practical advice for the preservation and restoration of health, a large amount of interesting and amusing light reading, and the calendar, astronomical calculations, chronological items, &c., are prepared with great care, and will be found entirely accurate. The issue of Hostetter's Almanac for 1875 will probably be the largest edition of a medical work ever published in any country. The proprietors, Messrs. Hostetter & Smith, Pittsburgh, Pa., on receipt of a two cent stamp, will forward a copy to any one who cannot procure one in his neighborhood.

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FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 31, 1874.

Inquiry among the bankers to-day elicits nothing of consequence worthy of note. All complain of the dulness of business incident to holiday times, but hope for an improvement in the near future, after the January settlements have been made. While we agree with them in the hope that such will be the case, we see no good reasons on which to found an opinion that there will be any material change for the better.

Holders of money are too cautious to risk their funds in new ventures, and the prospect of profitable returns is too slim to warrant any one in going out of the beaten path. It looks very much as if business would be reorganized on a new basis entirely, and that the return to ante-panic ways would not come; if on this new basis it raised a more substantial, though more modest building than the inflated, balloon-like structure that collapsed fifteen months since, then will the result be one not to be deplored. If the exceptional economies that are now being practised become the fixed habit of our people, then will the solid elements of wealth be greater during this decade than if the panic had not come.

—The *Financier* remarks of the new Currency bill that the troublesome question of the status of the retired legal tenders was put aside as not likely to ever become a practical one and not worth troubling about until it does, and adds:

Successive attempts to amend by allowing a part of customs duties to be paid in paper, to require the destruction of notes when redeemed, and to fix an earlier date of resumption, were voted down, and the bill, which is rather pronounced "a sort of Christmas gift to the people," went through. In the House it has to encounter more diverse and less harmonious elements, including the attempts of Mr. Kelley to fasten his 3.65 cause to it, and in presence of the present form must be regarded as very doubtful, as well as undesirable. If the bill were made an honest and unambiguous one, we should gladly accept it as rather better than none and as a compromise necessary under the circumstances; but as it now stands it is a piece of buggery.

—The Paris Nimi has commenced coining a silver dollar pieces in twenty francs' office for the Bank of France, and the work will be employed to facilitate the withdrawal from circulation of the small notes of the amount. The circulation of twenty francs' notes, which at one time reached 650,000,000 has already been reduced to 300,000,000.

—The New York *Times* furnishes the following list of banks whose notes have been counterfeited:

Of the $20 notes, a large number of excellent counterfeits are in circulation, as follows: The National Bank of the Republic; the National Shoe and Leather Bank of the city of New York.

The Bank of Commerce in New York.

The Merchants' National bank of the city of New York.

The Fourth National bank of the city of New York.

The City National bank of Utica.

The National bank of Commerce in New York.

The Tradesmen's National bank of the City of New York.

The First National bank of Indianapolis.

The First National bank of Portland.

The Ocean National bank of New York.

The National bank of Rockland.

The Central National bank of Rome.

The American National bank of New York.

The Fourth City National bank of New York.

The Third National bank of Philadelphia.

The Manufacturers' National bank of New York.

The First National bank of Lockport.

The Mutual National bank of Troy.

The Union National bank of New York.

The Auburn City National bank.

The First National bank of Philadelphia.

The Market National bank of New York.

The City National bank of Poughkeepsie.

The National Bank of the State of New York.

The First National bank of Poughkeepsie.

The Saratoga National bank of Waterford.

The Amenia City National bank.

The Merchants' National bank of Chicago.

The First National bank of Red Hook.

The Highland National bank of New Burg.

The Traders' National bank of Syracuse.

Of the $2 counterfeits we have the following notices of the following banks:

The Westchester County National bank.

The Marine National bank of New York.

The Ninth National bank of the city of New York.

The Market National bank of New York.

The National Union bank of Linderpark.

The Nicholas National bank of New York.

The National bank of Rhode Island, of Newport.

The National Union bank of Kinderhook.

The officers of the Bureau of Engraving find that the only way to protect the currency of the country from the numerous counterfeits on national bank note now in circulation, is to engrave the new series of notes for circulation for several years. A new issue in exchange for old worn notes will then be placed now in the hands of the counterfeiters worthless, and the new notes would be designed with the view of increasing the difficulties of the counterfeiters in their attempts to imitate them.

—The following table shows the price of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the St. Clair Banking Company, No. 16 Sixth street:

December 30, 1874.	10:30	11:30	12:30	1:30	2:30	3:30
	A. M.	A. M.	M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.
Gold						
U. S. 5s, 1881, coup	122	122	122	122		
U. S. 6s, 1881	116	116	116	116		
U. S. 5-20s, 1865	116	116	116	116		
U. S. 5-20s, 1867	118	118	118	118		
U. S. 5-20s, new	112	112	112	112		
U. S. 5-20s, 1868	118	118	118	118		
U. S. 10-40s	114	114	114	114		
Currency 6s	117	117	117	117		
Pacific 6s, 1895	114	114	114	114		
Pacific 6s, 1896	114	114	114	114		
Western Union Tel. Co	84	84	84	84		
Quicksilver	37	37	37	37		
Quicksilver, pref	50	50	50	50		
Pacific Mail	34	34	34	34		
Panama	118	118	118	118		
Wabash	40	40	40	40		
Wells-Fargo Express	87	87	87	87		
Adams Express	67	67	67	67		
United States Express	65	65	65	65		
New York Central	97	97	97	97		
Erie	27½	27½	27½	27½		
Michigan Central	87	87	87	87		
Michigan Southern	87½	87½	87½	87½		
Illinois Central	120	120	120	120		
Cleveland & Pitt	87	87	87	87		
Chicago & Norths'n	47½	47½	47½	47½		
Do. preferred	67½	67½	67½	67½		
Rock Island	102	102½	102	102½		
St. Paul	30	30	30	30		
Do. preferred	55½	55½	55½	56		
Fort Wayne	90	90	90	90		
Ohio & Mississippi	31½	31½	31½	31½		
Union Pacific	35½	35½	35½	36		
Harlem	130	130	130	130		
Hannibal & St. Jos.	25	25	25	25		
Ironclad	93	93	93	93		
C. A. & I.	75	75	75	75		
Tennessee, old	67	67	67	67		
Tennessee, new	67	67	67	67		
South Carolina, Apr.	67	67	67	67		
South Carolina, July	67	67	67	67		
Missouri 6s	97	97	97	97		

—The following is a report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

	Bid.	Asked.
Pennsylvania Central, sales	36	36½
Pennsylvania Central scrip, sales	105½	
Reading, sales	20	
United Companies of N. J., sales	127½	
Oil Creek	8½	8¾
Lehigh Valley, sales ex. div	50	51
Allegheny Valley	92	95
Central Transportation	42½	44
Empire Transportation	71	
P. C. & St. L. mortgage bonds, 7s	74½	75
Gold	111½	

GENERAL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, December 30, 1874.

There is not much change to report in commercial affairs at present. Jobbers and retailers are generally engaged in preparing to accounts of stock and making annual settlements, and the usual lull of the holiday season in the wholesale trade coming upon an already apathetic market, has contributed to an extreme quiet in business affairs. This has not caused much uneasiness among merchants, as it was expected generally, and the usual belief is that after a few weeks there will be a marked improvement, which, when the troubles in the iron business are over, will grow into undoubted activity.

There is not much to note in movements of prices. Oats, after having drooped and declined during the early part of the week, became stronger to-day, and closed firm at 64c, while other grains were unchanged. In produce and groceries there is a limited movement, at prices not materially altered from former quotations. Indications continue to tend downward, and by easy gradations. We hope to see prices more suited to the hard times, which are so generally felt by the consumers of hog products.

In dry goods, boots and shoes and coastal branches of the jobbing trade here, business has been rather light but prices steady, in fact in the dry goods line the downward movement of prices during November and December has been carried prices so low that further reductions are hardly to be expected. The New York *Bulletin* estimates the falling off of the trade in boots and shoes for 1874 at twenty per cent. of the average of previous years, with the naturally expected increase.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce, by rail and river, since our last, are as follows:

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bbls	13,233	5,725	18,958
Apples, bbls	1,263	728	2,203
Cheese, box	922	1,057	1,980
Corn, sks	3,527	4,494	8,021
Wheat, sks	3,557	4,080	7,622
Barley, sks	6,967	4,371	11,098
Rye, sks	2,225	1,000	3,225
Oats, sks	31,139	3,857	33,020
Potatoes, bbls	2,235	297	632
Bacon, pcs	2,272	3,771	11,043
Lard, tcs	521	226	819
Potatoes, bush	6,219	2,212	8,431
Hay, bales	2,464	2,572	5,036

The following quotations are prices realized on wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. Op small sales, generally at a slight advance. Sales of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free on elevator:

GRAIN, FLOUR AND FEED.

GRAIN—The receipts this week are considerably lighter, the total being 20,000 bushels, against 94,397 the preceding week. The market has improved somewhat but not enough to quote it so. Wheat and corn are steady and unchanged, and oats having been weak on Monday and Tuesday, were held firmly at the Corn Exchange this morning, when 64c was asked. The visible supply of grain at all points, on December 26th showed a large increase on wheat, both as compared with the previous week and the same time last year, corn and oats decreased to a small amount in the week, but was nearly one million bushels more on hand than last year at this time, while oats were slightly increased over the previous year, and decreased in the week's reporting.

FLOUR—The market is quiet at about previous quotations. The receipts were 10,225 bushels, against 8,837 bushels the preceding week. Most of the sales reported consist of choice white and amber Kentucky wheat shipped direct to millers here, or river to Bellaire, and thence by rail; about 40,000 bushels of this wheat is to arrive here during the next month at a quarter-cent of $1 25@1 30 per bushel. We quote choice Kentucky white wheat at $1 30@1 35 per bushel; extra Michigan white at $1 25@1 27; Ohio and Illinois ditto at $1 20@1 25; Ohio and Pennsylvania red wheat $1 15@1 18.

CORN—The market continues quiet, and the declining mood of buyers to operate, although not marked as at the close of last week, is still noticeable. The receipts are moderate, being 16,225 bushels during the week past, against 12,067 bushels the preceding week. We have no sales of shelled at 74@75c per bushel, and quote these figures for high mixed: low mixed 72@73c. Ear is in light demand, and is nominal at 72@73c, with ear corn on the wharf ruling about 5c lower.

OATS—The market was very weak, yesterday, and sales were made at 63@65c per bushel for high mixed, with a weak feeling even at these quotations. On Change to-day, however, holders were firmer, and 64c was asked, which seemed to stop transactions; 63¾@64c being offered. The market is quotable at 63@64c per bushel for white; 61@62c for mixed. There is not a very large stock of oats on hand, and receipts have fallen to 24,977 bushels during the past week, against 32,817 the preceding week.

BARLEY—The market continues dull, and transactions here are very light. Nearly all the barley that comes to this market is bought elsewhere by Pittsburgh brewers, and so far as transactions here are concerned, quotations are almost nominal, as follows: $1 25@1 30 per bushel for No. 2, fully; $1 10@1 15 for No. 3; $1 00@1 05 for No. 4; spring barley is quoted at $1 00@1 50 per bushel. Receipts are 10,327 bushels, against the past week, against 16,617 bushels for the previous week.

RYE—There has been rather light receipts of rye during the past week, amounting to 2,028 bushels. The market is easy at $1 00@1 10 per bushel.

SALES—The sales reported on 'Change and on the street, yesterday and to-day, were very light. They include the following:

1 car shelled corn, in sks	74½c
1 car shelled corn, in sks	77 c
1 car bulk oats	63½c
1 car white oats	63½c

FLOUR.—There is a sharp decrease in the receipts, which were 5,725 bbls during past week, against 13,233 bbls the preceding week. There is a very active demand, all sorts and grades for January indicate that a better trade is anticipated. The following are the wholesale prices of the different brands: No. 1, white wheat flour $7 50@8 bbl; No. 1 amber wheat do $6 50@7 bbl; No. 1 family wheat do $6 00@6 50 bbl; No. 2 white wheat do $5 50@6 bbl; No. 2 amber wheat do $5 00@5 50 bbl; No. 1 amber wheat do $6 50@7 bbl. The following prices of leading dealers are as follows: Choice brands of white winter wheat flour $6 75@7 00; Wisconsin $6 75@7 00; Minnesota $6 75@7 00; red winter wheat flour $5 75@6 00; spring wheat do, Graham flour $5 75; self-raising flour in 5 packages $4 25@4 50; buckwheat meal, old $5 75; new $5 00@5 50; oat meal $7 75@8 00.

HAY—Receipts for two weeks are 5,036 bales. The trade is slow, and confined to immediate wants. The quotations are unchanged, viz: $23 00@24 00 ₩ ton; No. 2 do $20 00@21 00; mixed clover $19 00@20 00; loose timothy $20 00@22 00; baled timothy $22 00@23 00; prime timothy $23 00@24 00; mixed timothy

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Fifteen Cents Per Week.

Leave your orders for the Carrier at the Counting Room of this office.

CITY MATTERS.

Local Observations.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., Room 23, First National Bank, PITTSBURGH, PA., December 30, 1874.

Time.	Bar.	Ther.	Hum	WIND. Dir.	WIND. Force.	Weath.
7 A.M.	29.51	17	83	N.W.	Fresh.	Fair.
2 P.M.	29.50	24	74	N.W.	Fresh.	Fair.
9 P.M.	29.65	21	83	N.W.	Fresh.	Clear.

Mean barometer....29.57 Highest thermom....27
Mean thermom.....20 Lowest thermom.....17
Rainfall.....0

Twenty-third District Returns.

Following are the footings of the returns for Congressman in the Twenty-third district:

	Allegheny.	Butler.	Armstr'g.
Thompson	4,166	2,470	308
Negley	3,015	258	691
Baillie	501	29	61
TOTAL.			
Thompson	4,166		3,378
Negley	3,015		949
Baillie	501		98
Thompson's majority over Negley			2,429

Sad Case of Drowning.

On Thursday last Balsie Grady, a servant girl in the employ of Thomas Rowswell, Esq., of the Twelfth ward, started on a visit to the home of her brother, who resided at Sterling's mines, on the Conghlogheny, three miles west of Connellsville. On Sunday evening, in company with her brother, John Grady, and five other persons, Miss Grady started on a trip across the river in a skiff. The boat, for some unexplained cause, capsized, and the brother and sister were drowned. The others managed to escape. Shortly after the accident the body of Balsie was recovered, but at last accounts that of her brother has not. The remains of the unfortunate girl were buried on Tuesday, at Connellsville.

The Puddlers' Strike.

The fact that Messrs. Lloyd & Black, yesterday put their boilers at work at the old rate of wages, six dollars per ton, has led to reports that it is permanent and that all the mills are soon to resume operations. Upon inquiry, we learn that these reports are untrue. Messrs. Lloyd & Black supply articles, specially their own manufacture, and, owing to orders on hand, they were compelled to start their works again, but it will be but for a short time. As the mill-owners generally, we may state that they are more resolute than ever in their determination, from necessity, to hold out for a reduction.

As confirming this necessity, we note the fact, by no means encouraging to Pittsburgh, that certain Harrisburg firms are offering and selling merchantable iron here at prices with which our manufacturers are unable to compete. They are enabled to do this because they are paying only $4.50 per ton for rolling.

Universal Rolling Mills.

The "Universal" system of rolls, from its adaptability to roll any sizes of plate beyond the reach of the grooved rolls, has become a great favorite with the manufacturers of iron, and there are quite a number in operation in this city. Messrs. Carnegie & Kloman, it is said, have the largest and finest "Universal Mill" in the United States. This mill has an improved friction-al reverse motion gearing, introduced by Mr. Kloman, and also an automatic system of rollers on a long stationary table on each side of the rolls. By this arrangement a piece of iron of three or four tons can be easily handled, so far as the rolling is concerned, as one of three cwt. Messrs. C. & K. have already rolled plates, with perfectly sound edges, 37 feet long, 3 feet wide and ⅞ inch thick, and feel confident they can go beyond this, although it is said the foregoing has never been accomplished before. The next in order of size is the Universal Mill at Graff, Bennett & Co.'s Mills works, operated with reversing engines and having automatic rollers for carrying the bloom to and from the rolls. This mill is used exclusively, at present, for rolling Tank-furnace blooms, weighing about 1,000 pounds each, into bars for subsequent piling and rolling into plates.

Merging the Courts.

The District Court will be merged in the Court of Common Pleas, after January 1st, as required by the constitution. They will be known as Common Pleas No. 2 and No. 2. Judges Sterrett, Stowe and Collier will constitute No. 1, and Judges Ewing, Kirkpatrick and White No. 2—the first named respectively will preside. The courts in Allegheny county are required "in turn to detail one or more of their Judges to hold the Courts of Oyer and Terminer and the Courts of Quarter Sessions of the Peace, in such manner as may be directed by law." As no law has been passed on the subject, some of the District Court Judges, it is said, are in doubt as to whether they should assume any duties in the Criminal Courts until the Legislature passes a law directing the manner of proceeding. The old Common Pleas Judges, however, can easily regulate this matter until such time as the needful legislation is had.

As the District Court will cease to exist, as a separate institution, after to-day, the open books of the court will await, pro tem, adjournment, and have something appropriate to say in regard to the event. The speeches will doubtless be interesting.

Real Estate Transfers.

The following deeds were filed of record in the office of Ralph J. Richardson, County Recorder, December 30, 1874:

FIRST—ward.

Seventeenth ward—Wm. J. Johnston to H. W. Boutmeyer, December 18, 1874; lot on Grant street, 20 feet...$ 1,000 00
Sixteenth ward—Thos. Berger to John Baker, December 17, 1874; lot on Taylor street, 20x80 feet.....Nominal
Twenty-second ward—Wm. McKee to James S. Kerr, May 16, 1872; 20 acres and 153.5-100 perches land.....75 00
Thirty-second ward—W. C. McBeath to A. C. Patterson, September 24, 1874; lot on Dillaflelt's 2d plan.....2,000 00
Thirty-second ward—W. C. McBeath to A. C. Patterson, September 24, 1874; lot on Dillaflelt's 2d plan.....Nominal
North ward—J. H. McCausland to Mary Sherry, January 26, 1874; lot 20x80 feet.....Nominal
Twenty-fourth ward—Sheriff Baird to the South Side Planing Mill Company, December 12, 1874; lot on Murray street, 24x169 feet.....50 00

ALLEGHENY.

Eleventh ward—Jno. Richards to Wm. H. Artzberger, September 1, 1874; lot on McClure avenue, 77 5-8x196 feet.....900 00
Eleventh ward—Maria Vandivender to Wm. H. Artzberger, August 15, 1874; lot 18x151 feet.....1,100 00
Eleventh ward—John Reilly to John Richards, August 3, 1874; lot on McClure avenue, 77x196 feet.....350 00

TOWNSHIP.

Indiana—Improvement Trust Co. to Esther Traiger, June 9, 1873; 2 lots on King avenue, Village of Morningside.....572 00
Same—Same to same, June 16, 1873; 2 lots on Woodland avenue, same place.....150 00
Charles—Jas. L. Marshall to John Fenner, September 17, 1866; lot Bell Chance, 84x198 feet.....325 00
North Versailles—David Z. Brickell to W. W. Martin, December 21, 1874; one-half of three-fourths interest in 28 acres 12 perches land.....1,877 00
Franklin—Thos. Holeman to Jas. Sarver, October 26, 1874; 10 acres land.....500 00

WASHINGTON AND WAYNESBURG

The Proposed Narrow Gauge Railway Connection.

The narrow gauge railroad projected between Washington and Waynesburg, is in a fair way to be completed at an early day. Under the provisions of the new Constitution of Pennsylvania, a subscription of $5,000 per mile is a prerequisite to the granting of a charter. This has already been secured, the sum of $140,000 having been placed on the subscription books and the distance between the two points being only about twenty-five miles.

There are two routes under consideration, one known as the Chamber's Mill route, running along Chamber's Mill Run, and the other known as the Prosperity route, extending up Chartiers creek and crossing the ridge to Ten Mile Valley, by way of West Union, down Bates' Fork. Both routes have been surveyed and have furnished subscriptions.

A meeting will be held at West Union church to-day to determine which route shall be selected, and to effect a permanent organization. If the point can be made done best in the way of subscription, Waynesburg and West Union are most prominent, the former having secured $70,000 and the latter $65,000. Washington has as yet furnished but $2,500, a dispute as to the proposed point of entrance into the town interfering with the general aid that would otherwise be forthcoming. We do not think, however, that it will have a serious effect.

Concerning the route, a broad will cost Waynesburg [illegible] and subscriptions [illegible] extension there [illegible] carried beyond [illegible] West Union [illegible] reaching Fairview [illegible] ding the Baltimore [illegible]

[illegible] Lewis, Bailey, [illegible] given by a separate [illegible] now having made [illegible] Shoe [illegible]

THE THIRTY-SEVENTH WARD.

Legally in the City? Argument in the Kelly Equity Case.

The ordinance annexing a portion of Ross township as the Thirty-seventh ward, was passed by Councils in May, 1873. An effort was made by Mr. James Kelly to restrain the election of Councilmen and ward officers, which took place in the following December, but the Court refused to interfere. Then a bill in equity was filed, praying the Court to enjoin the city from exercising authority over the territory annexed, on the ground that the ordinance was illegal and void. The act of Assembly, under which the territory was admitted, provides that "the application shall be made by petition of at least three-fifths of the taxable inhabitants," the petition to be "accompanied by an affidavit of a reputable citizen of said district, that the persons signing the same are taxable inhabitants, and constitute, as he verily believes, three-fifths of all the taxable inhabitants of said district, and upon presentation of the petition as above provided, it shall be lawful for the Councils of the city of Pittsburgh to pass an ordinance affixing said district." The petition and affidavit were presented to Councils on the 9th of December, 1872, and a remonstrance was presented at the same time. The matter was referred to the City Attorney, Major Slagle, who was of the opinion that, as the terms of the act conferring the power had been complied with, in the presentation of the petition and affidavit, Councils might pass the ordinance; but as questions of fact had been raised by the remonstrants, he advised that the matter be referred to a committee for investigation. This course was adopted, and after a full hearing, before two different committees, it was determined that three-fifths had signed the petition, and that Councils might pass the ordinance.

After the election, and after Council had begun to exercise authority over the new ward, Messrs. Schoyer and Acheson, counsel for Mr. Kelly, asked the District Court for the appointment of a commissioner to take testimony in the equity case, and James M. Stoner, Esq., was appointed. At intervals, during the past seven or eight months, the commissioner has been engaged in taking testimony, Major Slagle and Colonel Arthur Bigelow appearing for the city. The testimony having been closed, the case came on for argument yesterday, which was heard in the Law Library room. Below is a brief synopsis of the

ARGUMENT FOR THE COMPLAINANT.

Mr. Schoyer, in opening, recited the action of Councils, which has been given above. As to the question of fact, it appeared from the testimony before the commissioner that there were four hundred and seventy-eight taxables in the district. The petition had been signed by but 214, or 73 less than the required number. The question as to what constituted "taxable inhabitants" was next discussed, the speaker holding that all persons, women and children, should be embraced. The next point made was, that taking the several lists presented to Councils, the petitioners were still below the number required. As to the law, he held that every requirement must be complied with. The affidavit, to the effect that three-fifths had signed, was not sufficient. It the fact was proved that there had not been three-fifths signing, then the whole proceeding was void. As to the remedy, he held that the complainant had no adequate legal course open to him, and he had pursued the only and the proper course, in demanding equitable relief. Numerous authorities were cited in support of these positions.

Mr. Acheson (who made the closing speech) held that it was a fundamental requirement that three-fifths should have signed the petition. The accompanying affidavit was, to his mind, a mere secondary matter—to use a [illegible] *verata* was the only one suggested by the other side, but that proceeding would not lie, as to the purpose of this case. He also contended, from the cases cited, that the important matter as the extension of territorial limits the acts of municipal corporations should be held subject to review by the courts.

ARGUMENT FOR RESPONDENTS.

City Attorney Bigelow held that the Councils had the power delegated to them, by the Legislature, to admit adjacent townships, or portions thereof, upon certain conditions. A precedent fact was, that three-fifths should petition for admission. The Legislature did not stop there. They went further, and provided that "the petition shall be accompanied by an affidavit of a reputable citizen, that the persons signing the same are taxable inhabitants, and constitute, as he verily believes, three-fifths of all the taxable inhabitants," etc. That was a judicial determination of the fact, and was conclusive. The whole matter was then in the power of Councils. It was to guard against just such questions as have since been raised, that the Legislature provided this means of judicial determination by affidavit of a reputable citizen. When that fact was duly embodied in the affidavit, as required by the act, Councils had full power to pass the ordinance.

Major Slagle followed on behalf of the respondents. He stated that there was not much difference between counsel as to the facts. He then reviewed the proceedings of Councils, and stated that the affidavit of Squire Swift had been made after a careful examination of the list of names and register, as they then existed. He had been a tax collector, was familiar with a large proportion of the citizens, and the affidavit was made in good faith, under an honest belief that the petitioners constituted three-fifths of the taxables. A careful investigation before two committees of Councils resulted in the unanimous finding that three-fifths had signed. It was not now disputed that there were more persons in the district than either the petitioners or the remonstrants were aware of. He did not want it to go upon record that there were 487 taxables in the district, as he had, as City Attorney, advised Councils that would be the number of taxables. He here cited the law upon which he based his opinion. This decision, however, would not have changed the aspect of this case as there were as many remonstrants in the petition as would have made up for the reduction in the whole number. But the remonstrants appeared before the Committees of Councils, and Mr. Kelly, the complainant here, was represented by counsel, and the witnesses examined under oath. The testimony before the Commissioner (Mr. Stoner) also showed that Mr. Rice, on whom this whole case depended, was a very unsafe witness. When Rice came before the committee, he swore there were only thirty-eight persons omitted from Swift's list, and it was shown, then and there, that a large portion of these were on Swift's list. Rice's list, all told, was 346. He withdrew that, and presented another with 401 names, which he swore was all. When the whole thing was boiled down, the committee found that three-fifths had signed the petition. This, too, from testimony offered by the remonstrants themselves. After the matter went back to Councils, Rice presented another list, 463 in all. These facts indicated that there were great difficulties in the way of getting at the truth. Two years have elapsed, and witnesses have to testify from recollection. Rice's last list presented to the commissioner numbered 520, but from this should be deducted fifty-four non-residents, seven deceased, thirteen proven only by Rice, and thirty-two women, or 106 in all—leaving 414 as the number. This is the result from the proof before the commissioner. The whole proceeding showed great care on the part of Councils and the petitioners, and both unquestionably acted in good faith and with honest motives.

As to the law, Major Slagle held that *quo warranto* was the proper remedy. But the real point in this case was, that the Legislature had conferred upon Councils power to do a certain thing in a certain way. When did the jurisdiction attach? Unquestionably upon the presentation of the petition and affidavit. That determined the jurisdiction as a quasi-executive. Councils then had power to admit absolutely, and the territory cannot now be got out of the city except by act of the Legislature. It was not necessary to refer the matter to a committee for investigation, but they acted deliberately, giving a full hearing to the remonstrants. No poll had been required, and no one, any one, until after the district was admitted, and after five months have gone by, the complainant alleges hasty action. The petition and affidavit were exclusive of the whole question. The authorities cited on the other side were commented on at considerable length, as were those quoted in support of the position taken by counsel for the city.

At the conclusion, Mr. Stoner took charge of the papers, and will announce his decision in due time. The case will be taken to the Supreme Court, for final determination.

Watch Meeting.

Arrangements have been made for a "watch" meeting at the Smithfield Methodist Episcopal church, to continue from half-past nine o'clock this evening until after the dawn of the new year, to-morrow morning. At ten o'clock Rev. F. A. Brooke, of Christ church, will preach an appropriate sermon. At half-past ten o'clock the doors will be closed and none admitted thereafter.

The Shields House.

The traveling public will doubtless learn with interest that the old Red Lion Hotel, on Sixth street, having changed hands has been thoroughly renovated and refitted throughout and is now open for the entertainment of people who seek hotel accommodations. The new proprietors Messrs. Stahiman & McCoy have changed the name of the house, and it will hereafter be known as the "Shields House." The members of the new firm are both gentlemen of large experience, are genial and accommodating, and have a thorough knowledge of the requirements of those who expect a hospitable reception and a pleasant sojourn at a hotel. Especial attention will be given to the table, on which will be found the best of everything that the market affords, while the rooms will be found scrupulously neat and clean. Mr. Stahiman was formerly Mayor of Parkersburg, West Va., as Mr. McCoy is a veteran landlord from Wheeling, Pa. With the vast improvements in every department of the house and have the reputation the Red Lion will no longer hold third place in its stead will appear a merits a credit for [illegible] its appointments who, while [illegible] and a desideratum [illegible] ensure a thoroughly good accommodation. We had almost omitted to say that our host, Mr. Williams, who is well known to the [illegible] here, will either [illegible] gentleman is in charge of the office.

DESTITUTION IN NEBRASKA.

An Appeal from a Pittsburgher.

Our readers have been from time to time duly informed of the movements and prospects of the Pittsburghers, who a year since joined a colony which settled in Dawson county, Nebraska. Latterly the letters of our friends have not been hopeful. Few of the settlers had any considerable amount of money with them, and they depended upon the tilling of their land for their support this winter. The terrible grasshopper plague devasted the fields, killing vegetation and now many of the families are left destitute—wanting clothing and food. The letter we publish below is written by one of the Pittsburghers spoken of, and his integrity and veracity is vouched for by well-known citizens. It is intended to be placed in the hands of some prominent minister, in the hope that the charitable will thus be more specially reached. We publish it so that it may reach the hands of all ministers, with the hope that immediate aid be given. Following is the letter:

PLUM CREEK,
DAWSON CO., NEBRASKA,
December, 24, 1874.

Dear Sirs:—I appeal to you and to the charity of your congregation to assist in relieving the distress that prevails in our State. The grasshopper utterly destroyed all the crops, and as this part of Nebraska was settled only last spring, and all the people have depended upon the result of their labor to carry them through the winter, they are forced to appeal to more favored localities for help. The suffering here is terrible; some have already starved to death, and many more will starve unless help reaches them soon. Anything in the way of clothing, blankets, provisions, or help of any kind that you can send, will be thankfully received by a destitute people. The State Aid Society is doing all they can, but cannot begin to reach all. Serviceable second-hand clothing will be thankfully received, while flour, bacon and groceries generally are sadly needed. If you are able, through God's providence, to assist in keeping the life in some of these poor people here through the winter you will have performed a good work, and may God in his infinite mercy reward you a hundred fold. Nearly all the Western cities are helping, and General Brisbin is soliciting aid in New York. The most of the people in this vicinity are from Pennsylvania, and they think their native State will surely not let them perish. Anything you will be generous enough to give us will be forwarded free by any of the roads leading west of Pittsburgh. The people here have not lost faith, and the State, although rich, is too young and poor financially to carry all the poor people through the winter.

If you would be kind enough to appoint one or two persons in your church to take charge of the donations, and forward them as per margin, I will distribute them to those most needy. My references are Messrs. Graff, Bennett & Co., of Pittsburgh.

Please let me know what you can do for us. With great respect,

ROBT. A. SHEARER.

Packages may be left at the Pittsburgh Mayor's office or forwarded directed as follows: O. N. Ramsey, Secretary Aid Society, Omaha, Neb., or Capt. Robt. A. Shearer, Plum Creek, Dawson county, Neb.

SUICIDE AT THE CITY FARM.

An Inmate Jumps from a Third Story Window and Breaks His Neck—A Victim of the Smallpox Scare at the Young Men's Home.

Among the large number of homeless, wretched men whose hegira from the Young Men's Home, on Duquesne Way, a few days since, upon account of a reported case of smallpox in that institution, was recorded in a late issue of this journal, there was a young Irishman named James Freel. At the time of the breaking out of the smallpox panic Freel had been an inmate of the paupers' department of the Home only a few days. He was very much depressed because of his inability to procure employment, and when he heard the report of the case of smallpox so near him he became panic-stricken and fled from his last place of shelter. That night, it has since been ascertained, he found lodging on a hay barge moored at the Allegheny wharf, and next day (Tuesday) he laid his case before the Guardians of the Poor and was sent to the City Home, on the south bank of the Monongahela, two miles above the city. Since his admission to the Home he has been very low spirited, yet he had exhibited no positive symptoms of an unsound mind, and those in charge of the institution had not a suspicion that the man's condition was such that he required any more attention than the ordinary sane pauper.

About twelve o'clock yesterday, while the officers of the Home were directing the preparation of dinner, some one saw a man fall upon the ground from the building, and it at once became evident that either a terrible accident had occurred or some one had attempted self-destruction. A hasty investigation was made, and it was found that the man who had fallen was James Freel, the latest addition to the family at the Home; that he was quite dead, his neck being broken. Freel had deliberately jumped from a third story window of the building, a height of about forty feet. Freel's determination to commit the act was shown by the fact that he had removed the upper sash of the window, the lower one being fastened so that he was unable to raise it.

Coroner McCallin was notified of the affair yesterday afternoon, and by his direction an inquest was held by a Justice of the Peace in the vicinity of the Poor Farm. The decision was unanimously a stranger in the city, being without a friend or relative here, as far as goes any information already obtained concerning him. He was about twenty-six years of age.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

U. S. District Court—Judge McCandless.

George Ober, Allegheny City, bankrupt. On motion of Samuel Schoyer, Esq., the Court ordered the resolution accepting the proposition of debtor for composition to be recorded and that the same be binding on all the creditors, and staying all further proceedings in the matter.

W. S. Colwell, bankrupt, Pittsburgh. The report of Register Harper on the petition of the Enterprise Savings bank for payment in[illegible] recommended and confirmed, and the assignee directed to pay to said bank the sum of $510 85, the amount of its claim, with costs.

Staib & Co., bankrupts, Pittsburgh. The creditors, at a meeting called for that purpose having elected Alfred Patterson, of Pittsburgh, and John B. Finley, of Monongahela City, assignees, the same is approved.

District Court—Full Bench.

Judge White is still engaged upon the case of Kinney's assignee vs. Wood and others. Judges Ewing and Kirkpatrick were yesterday hearing cases on the argument list.

Quarter Sessions—Judge Collier.

John Madden, indicted for felonious assault and battery, was acquitted of the felony, but convicted of a misdemeanor in unlawfully wounding the prosecutor, Martin Dougherty. The question as to whether a verdict of misdemeanor can stand under an indictment for felony will come before the Court on a motion in arrest of judgment.

Thos. R. Sill was found guilty on two indictments charging him with embezzlement. In the first case the prosecutor was Joseph Hicks, a farmer in Hampton township. He testified that having occasion to raise some money, he went to Mr. Sill and asked him if he could get him $1,500 on mortgage, and was told that he could and Mr. Sill said that he could. On the 29th of July last, he gave Sill a mortgage to negotiate. He at first agreed to allow ten per cent. interest, but afterwards agreed to two per cent. additional. The mortgage was in the hands of Mr. Sill for a considerable time, and when witness would call, as he did frequently, the defendant would tell him that he had not yet negotiated the mortgage. Witness finally demanded the money or the mortgage, when defendant said that the mortgage was in the hands of a gentleman who had gone to Erie, but that he would get it when the gentleman would return to the city. Witness now suspected that something was wrong and got a lawyer to look into the matter. The attorney found that the mortgage had been negotiated and assigned to J. Ludwig Koethen, Esq., some time previously, and that seven of the indictments against the jury returned a verdict of embezzlement. In the second case, Mr. Jacob Weisenstein was the prosecutor. This case was similar to the first one.

James Sands was found guilty of larceny and recommended to the mercy of the Court.

William Cross, indicted for larceny and receiving stolen goods, on oath of Anne Maria Crozier, was found guilty on the first count and not guilty on the second. The defendant was fined $5, costs and costs of prosecution, and sentenced to undergo imprisonment in the workhouse for one year.

J. W. Reynolds, indicted for false pretenses, on oath of David Armer, plead guilty.

John Mathews is on trial for fornication and bastardy, charged on oath of Rachel Weir.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

Commonwealth vs. James Jackson *et al.*; Wm. Cooper; M. Wilson; Abraham Reid; Henry Butler; John Southwell; Charles W. Ayer; D. Smith *et al.*; James Murphy; Fred. Harvey; Fritz Murphy; P. Reitzel *et al.*

Freshets in the Allegheny.

The following is a record of the notable freshets in the Allegheny river from the year 1810 up to the present: November 10, 1810, 22 feet; February 18, 1832, 35 feet; February 10, 1846, 26 feet 9 inches; April 19, 1852, 31 feet 9 inches; April 12, 1860, 26 feet 7 inches; September 29, 1861, 30 feet 9½ inches; March 17, 1865, 32 feet 6 inches; December 14, 1873, 26 feet 4 inches; December 30, 1874, 21 feet 4 inches.

WARD TAXPAYERS UNION.

Meeting of Citizens of the Seventeenth Ward—A Platform Adopted.

A meeting of citizens of the Seventeenth ward was held on Tuesday evening, for the purpose of forming a Ward Union of Taxpayers.

Mr. Thomas Coleman was chosen Chairman, and Mr. A. McBride Secretary.

The Chairman stated the object of the meeting, and remarked that he was heartily in favor of any movement that would accomplish "retrenchment and reform" in the management of municipal affairs. In concluding he stated that at a preliminary meeting a committee had been proposed to prepare a "declaration of principles," and suggested that if the committee were ready to report it would be in order to hear them.

Mr. M. J. McCann, from the committee referred to, made report indicting Councils for neglecting to listen to the appeals and expostulations of their "indignant and outraged constituents." They also charged with "whitewashing at the expense of the taxpayers every shameless fraud and villainy that have been unearthed." They were also charged with devising a "most iniquitous bill" to add $3,000,000 to the already enormous debt. For these and other reasons the committee proposed the formation of a Union under the following

PLATFORM.

We propose to organize with the unswerving purpose of making straight the crooked paths of misrule and debauched citizenship.

Of exerting all our strength to overthrow our despotic masters, and of placing servants of honesty, capacity and tried personal worth, in charge of ward municipal affairs.

And we shall exact from them the most solemn pledges of setting their faces against the avenues of fraud and corruption, with the unflinching virtue and stern rigor of a Cato.

We shall demand from them that they retrench in earnest, lop off from our decaying municipal body the parasitical limbs that, fattening upon the sweat of our blood, for they "toil not, neither do they spin."

We shall insist that they oppose all extraordinary schemes embraced in the Penn avenue act, and other kindred acts, the fruitful source of private wrong and public fraud.

That they resist any further increase of rotten wooden streets and avenues.

That when citizens of repute bid on public work, the lowest responsible bidder shall have justice done him, and that all bids be opened in public Councils.

That they rigidly scrutinize the financial doings of the various committees and that their clerks shall not be endowed with extraordinary power, sole managers of our moneys.

That they demand of all officials the most rigid economy.

That when any public servant, oblivious of his sworn duty to God and man, by crooked ways and devious paths, becomes a debtor to public virtue and honesty, he is arrested and punished with unrelenting justice, and gibbeted upon public opinion.

And finally that they see to it that immediate steps be taken in the reduction of taxation, and that the leeches who swarm in our public places be everlastingly swept away.

To all of which we shall hold our servants strictly accountable.

And to this end we bend our energies with the fond hope and earnest desire that all good citizens, who wish and pray for a return of a blessed honesty, economy and public virtue in our places of trust and power, will join us with heart and soul, under the inspiriting glorious banner of "Retrenchment and Reform."

The platform was unanimously adopted, and after some brief addresses, the Union adjourned to meet next Tuesday evening.

THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Accommodations for Cases of Infectious Diseases—Other Matters.

The Board of Health of Pittsburgh met yesterday afternoon, Mr. Matthew Edwards in the chair.

The Health Officer brought to the attention of the Board the complaints of a nuisance created by horses on Penn avenue, East Liberty, by the stopping of the Kinkaid cars there.

On motion, the matter was referred to the Sanitary Committee, to examine and report at next meeting of the Board.

Mr. Gray also again brought to the attention of the Board the necessity for hospital accommodations for cases of infectious disease. Several small pox cases have been heard of, and one was carried to the office requiring action by the officers. No such patients will hereafter be received in the hospitals, and some arrangements must be made to accommodate them.

Some discussion took place on the subject, and it was suggested that a cheap board building, erected upon the hospital grounds, would answer for the purposes named.

It was stated that the house, corner of Bluff and Pride streets, could again be had for a temporary; but as the parties to the patients there would be an injustice to the residents of the neighborhood.

On motion, the Health Officer, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, was instructed to ascertain from a carpenter the cost of a frame building, and report to the Board immediately.

The Health Officer also reported for the special committee that in the matter of the claim of the tenant on the hospital grounds, arbitrators were chosen and had allowed him $500 for building of fence and repairs, as per bill presented.

The report was accepted, and the officer was authorized to settle on the basis stated, the tenant to pay the rent, less the bill mentioned.

On motion, the Health Officer was instructed to place in the hands of the attorney of the Board the claim against Mr. Barnett and wife for old fence removed.

Adjourned.

PARNASSUS, PA

Music, "Crusade"—Lectures, &c.

Our Christmas eve was made merry by a very enjoyable concert, given by the singing class of Profs. Miller and Blyholder, with Mrs. McCready as organist. The music was creditable alike to class and instructors. The "Farmer's Song" was conspicuous as a combination of the didatic and the humorous.

Prof. Ogden, the musical composer, and an instructor of the above professors, has a large class in training at our Normal College now, and will give an entertainment on the evening of the 8th of January.

Rev. A. H. Norcross, of Cadiz, Ohio, entertained the public a few evenings ago with a discussion of the theme, "Social Ideas."

Miss L. A. Haller, well-known as one of the most prominent ladies of the Pittsburgh temperance "crusade," gave an earnest lecture to our community on the subject of temperance. The large audience was highly entertained, and, we doubt not, benefited.

"Citizens' Hall," over the new store room of J. C. Stewart & Co., is engaged for a lecture on the 15th prox., and others are to follow.

Real estate sales in our village continue, despite the stringency of the times.

S. B. M.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House.

To-night the bill of To-day night will be repeated—"Red Tape" and "A Widow Hunt." We have have already given an opinion on the performances of Mr. Clarke in these plays, and reiterate our advice, (which perhaps is wholly unnecessary) to all who can possibly find the time, to see our great comedian as *Redmond Tape, Esq.*, and *Major de Boots*.

Library Hall—Toole.

Of J. L. Toole, who is to play in Library Hall on the evenings of the 6th, 7th and 8th of January, the St. Louis *Republican* says: "If there ever was a natural and a perfectly legitimate comedian, Toole is the man. He never resorts to buffoonery, not only because he does not need such an adjunct for effect, but because his artistic instincts and genuine temperament would not permit him, if tempted ever so much. That's the kind of a comedian Toole is."

Trimble's Varieties Theater.

The mixed performance—pantomine and variety business—now given at this house is highly popular, and draws great crowds. An enjoyable bill is given, and the pantomine, will be given to-night. There will be a matinee to-morrow afternoon.

Three Charges of Larceny.

Acting Mayor McMasters yesterday committed Herman L. Caspar to jail, in default of bail, to answer three charges of larceny, preferred respectively by Messrs. Penrose Fleisher, Julius Adler and Louis H. Adler. The defendant was in the employ of Messrs. Adler, Rosenberg & Co., wholesale liquor merchants, No. 120 Water street, and the larcenies are alleged to have been committed between January and October last. The articles missed are a barrel of whisky, a lot of clothes and a meerschaum pipe.

Drover Injured.

Yesterday afternoon, about two o'clock, a drover (name not known) from Finleyville, Ohio, was sitting on the top of one of the cars of a stock train on the Fort Wayne road, when the train was approaching the depot, and in passing under the Ridge avenue bridge his head struck one of the timbers of the structure, whereby the man was considerably cut and bruised. Dr. Buchanan dressed the wounds, and the man was able to proceed on his way.

Allegheny Council Committees.

The Police Committee, at its meeting last night, approved the pay rolls for December, amounting to $3,224 17. The balance of the appropriation is $10 77.

The bills approved by the Committee on Fire Engines and Hose amount to $1,-367 09, and the pay rolls to $3,349.

The Market Committee approved bills aggregating $182 91.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

WINTER days grow more like winter overcoats—longer.

PITTOCK will banquet the newsboys and bootblacks Friday, at old City Hall.

ZUG & Co. are only running on orders and to work up what muck bar they have.

IN SOME of the new styles there is no change. Poor relatives are cut the same as last year.

BROBDS says his pocket-book since Christmas looks as if an elephant had stepped on it.

NO ONE expects to do any work on New Year's Day. And yet, according to custom, thousands will follow their calling.

PORTER, BELL & Co. have stopped operations at their locomotive works to take stock. They will resume on the first prox.

IF HELL is paved with good resolutions, the present week will furnish a large amount of street-making material for that locality.

POSTMASTER MYLER, of Allegheny, arrived at home yesterday from his tour of Cuba, and is greatly improved in health by the trip.

A COLORED man named Winters, who was kicked by a mule last Sunday, at the stables of the Pleasant Valley Railway, died yesterday of his injuries.

HUSSEY, WELLS & Co. (steel) have stopped to take an inventory of stock and make repairs. They will resume operations on the 4th of January.

CITY ENGINEER DAVIS, of Allegheny, was yesterday presented with three handsomely bound and illustrated volumes of Knight's American Mechanical Directory, by the clerks in his office.

THE members-elect of Allegheny Councils are informed by Clerk White that they cannot take their seats next Tuesday unless they present certificates of election from the Prothonotary.

IN CONSEQUENCE of the breaking out of small-pox, and the fact that the hospitals refuse such patients, the Board of Health propose to erect a temporary structure on the hospital grounds owned by the city.

WE REGRET to learn that Hon. Matthew Edwards, President of the Board of Health, and one of the most efficient members ever in that body, intends to resign with the new year. Mr. Edwards thinks his holding the position of Viewer of improvements is incompatible with the membership named.

THE Executive Committee of the Humane Society held a regular weekly meeting yesterday afternoon, but transacted no business of importance. Dr. A. G. Wilkens submitted a design for a signal-board which he proposes to have painted and present to the Board. The annual meeting of the society will be held on Wednesday next.

JACOB BAUPP was committed to jail yesterday, by Alderman Chess, of the Tenth ward, Allegheny, for a hearing on charges of larceny by bailee, the prosecutors being George Emerick and Samuel Byers, who allege that Baupp, who is a constable, was intrusted with a number of bills for collection, which he had not since accounted for.

THE late Mr. John Arthurs, of this city, says the *Presbyterian Banner*, was a quiet and unassuming citizen and Christian. Though he said but little, he contributed to almost every benevolent enterprise. In his will he not only made provision for his own immediate family and some relatives, but among other bequests left $7,000 to the Bible Society.

AN evening contemporary intimates that the offer of mack iron at auction, was the work of some of our manufacturers. Inquiry discloses the fact, that no is the property of Mr. Henry G. Morris, of Philadelphia and was consigned long since to Mr. John Moorhead, broker of this city, for sale. One or two attempts to sell it at auction, were made some time previous to the offer of Tuesday.

UNTIL recently the largest weekly yield of Bessemer pig iron by the Lucy furnace was 450 tons, but for the week ending December 19th the production was 1,100 tons—over 200 tons more; and for the week ending the 26th 1,210,210 pounds—over 553 tons. These results are because the increased pressure of the spiegeleisen furnace is not the result of a "spurt" but of improved furnace practice. The ores used were Republic, Kloman and L. S. Hematite.

DAWSON & BAILEY, of the Connellsville Locomotive Works, are adding to their buildings a structure 100x45 feet, in which they will place their locomotives while receiving the "finishing touches," a few days ago they shipped a locomotive to the Ohio and Toledo Railroad Company, and are now at work on four of the great Mogul engines, to be shipped to St. Louis, and have orders for seven more of the same pattern for different other roads. This is one of the most prosperous and enterprising firms in this section of the country.

ELEGANT PERFUMERY,
AND
Fancy Goods for the Holidays.

We are just in receipt of an elegant and large variety of toilet articles and perfumery, suitable for Christmas presents, including perfume cases, cut glass cologne bottles [illegible] with any name on desired ivory hair brushes, Goddard silver vinegarettes, Fine English Rogers ivory brushes in setts and many other articles of rare beauty, which we will be pleased to show you.

McCLARREN & McKENNAN'S,
85 Market street 67 Fifth avenue and corner Smithfield and Fifth alley.

Also a full line of staple goods such as Lubin's Extracts and soaps, Atkinson's extra White Rose, Low's Toilet Vinegar, Fine English hair brushes and combs, Farris colognes, French plate hand mirrors.

Good 4-4 Chintzes

only 12½ cents per yard at H. J. Lynch's dry goods house, No. 96 Market street.

When Out Shopping

drop in at Hafer's, 59 Fifth avenue, for lunch. Everything first class and served in style.

VALUABLE BOOKS
AS
New Year's Gifts.

Library of Wonders: 20 volumes, half calf binding, in a neat walnut case.

Washington Irving: Knickerbocker edition, 27 volumes, half calf, illustrated.

Standard Shakspeare: 8 volumes, half calf.

Macaulay's England: 5 volumes, half calf.

Dana's Household Book of Poetry; antique Turkey.

Griswold's Poets and Poetry of England.

Jarvett's Dialogues of Plato: 4 volumes.

Smith's Bible Dictionary: 4 volumes, half Turkey.

Muncratt's Chemistry: 2 volumes, half Russia.

Dickens. Globe edition; 15 volumes, half Russia.

Thackeray. Complete in 22 volumes; half calf.

Bulwer. Lord Lytton edition: 23 volumes.

Knight's England; illustrated; 16 volumes.

Motley's Works: 3 volumes, half calf.

Cooper's Novels: 32 volumes.

Campbell's Lord Chancellors; 10 volumes, half calf.

Boswell's Johnson: 4 volumes, half calf.

Gibbons' Rome: 6 volumes, half calf.

Goethe's Herman and Dorothea.

Myths of the Rhine: Illustrated; by Dore.

Taine's Pyrenees: illustrated by Dore.

Stately Homes of England; illustrated.

Dante's Inferno: illustrated.

Lake and Mountain Scenery of the Swiss Alps.

Photograph Albums.

Juvenile Books in great variety.

All the new books and standard authors.

S. A. CL